Lacson says he'll implicate GMA in Chapter 3 exposé

Story below, Col. 2

Take back GMA award, fisherfolk ask Inquirer

BINAWI N'YA YUNG PANGAKO NIYA... E, DI BAWIIN DIN YUNG AWARD!

By Norman Bordadora

THE FISHERFOLK group Pambansang Lakas ng Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) yesterday urged the INQUIRER to withdraw its choice

TAKE BACK/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Thursday, October 9, 2003 ★★★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 303 P15

website: www.inq7.net

Asean inks historic pacts with China, India, Japan

BALI, Indonesia—Fresh from their landmark accord to establish a European-style economic community, 10 Southeast Asian leaders forged deals yesterday with China, India and Japan as part of efforts to invigorate their economies and keep regional peace.

Nuclear-armed China signed a pact "to promote perpetual peace" with the 10-member Association of Southeast

ASEAN/ A6

Cojuangco scores victory at Sandigan

Court lifts sequestration order on 20% of SMC shares

COJUANGCO: "A technicality" leads to a "minor" victory. BOY CABRIDO

By Volt Contreras and Ceres Doyo

THE SANDIGANBAYAN lifted last month but made public only yesterday the freeze order on 20 percent of the shares of San Miguel Corp. being claimed by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., setting back government efforts to gain control of the food and beverage giant.

The decision was a minor victory for Cojuangco, San Miguel chair and chief executive, whose hold on the firm had been placed in jeopardy by a Sandiganbayan ruling on July 11. The antigraft court ruled then that Cojuangco illegally acquired the United Coconut Planters Bank with coconut levy funds and forfeited his shareholdings in the bank in favor of the government. The UCPB is the administrator of a 27-percent voting bloc in San Miguel.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government claims both the 20-percent and the 27-percent blocs of San Miguel shares, which it says were illegally acquired using the levy that deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos imposed on coconut farmers during martial law.

In a ruling dated Sept. 17, the Sandiganbayan lifted nine sequestration orders on San Miguel shares under the companies Meadowlark Plantations Inc., ECJ & Sons Agricultural Enterprises, Discovery Realty Corp., Venture Securities Inc., Balete Ranch Inc., Oro Verde Services Inc. and Kalawakan Resorts Inc.

The legal freeze was clamped on the company, now valued at P177.45 billion, in 1986 and 1987 immediately after the downfall of the Marcos dictatorship, preventing San Miguel from using its shares to raise capital.

The Sandiganbayan said the PCGG committed technical errors when it issued the nine sequestration orders by failing to show convincing evidence that such an

COJUANGCO/ A6

HAPPY Hollywood ending for Austrian immigrant Arnold Schwarzenegger who appears before a delirious crowd at his campaign headquarters with his wife, Kennedy relative Maria Shriver. The megastar was voted into office in one of the most extraordinary political campaigns in US history. The world marvels at this uniquely American political triumph. *(See related story on Page A9.)* AP

TOTAL RECALL

Arnold is California's 'Gover-nator'

LOS ANGELES—Californians banished their governor, Gray Davis, just 11 months into his second term and overwhelmingly elected action hero Arnold Schwarzenegger to replace him—a Hollywood ending to one of the most extraordinary political melodramas in US history.

"I will not fail you, I will not disappoint you, and I will not let you down," the victorious actor vowed early Wednesday.

Voters traded a career Democratic politician who became one of the state's most despised chief executives for a moderate Republican megastar who had never before run for office. Davis became the first California governor pried from office and only the second nationwide to be recalled.

"Tonight, the voters did decide it's time for someone else to serve, and I accept their judgment," Davis said in conceding. He

ARNOLD/ A9

Joker: Did Palace cut deal with Danding?

By Michael Lim Ubac and Doris C. Dumlao

THE POSSIBILITY of horse trading between the Macapagal administration and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. surfaced yesterday after the Sandiganbayan lifted the freeze order on 20 percent of San Miguel shares being claimed by Cojuangco.

Sen. Joker Arroyo asked whether Malacañang had secretly cut a deal with Cojuangco, who heads the Nationalist People's Coalition, to dissuade him from running in the May presidential election.

A stock market analyst said the ruling might mean that Cojuangco, San Miguel chair and chief executive officer, would no longer run for President.

"This could be horse trading. One reason why he is running is to protect his interest in San Miguel but now that he has been given control of the company, there is no need for him to run," said the analyst, who declined to be named.

Even if some people would put political color on this development, the end-result could be positive, according to Unicapital Securities analyst Eric Claudio.

JOKER/ A6

Corpus: Gov't witnesses can pin down Ping

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

THE TESTIMONY of witnesses now in government custody will be sufficient to convict Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus said yesterday.

Corpus, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp), made the claim in the course of saying that the Supreme Court's dismissal on Tuesday of the Lacson motion that it reconsider its earlier decision reviving the case was "long overdue."

He said that the gist of the witnesses' testi-

CORPUS/ A4

Lacson says he'll implicate GMA in Chapter 3 exposé

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said he had been temporarily sidelined by the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case but vowed to deliver his final exposé on President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband "in time and on my own terms."

And this time, Lacson said, Chapter 3 of his exposé on Jose Miguel Arroyo would implicate the President in her husband's alleged corruption.

"I am ready to deliver it as I intend to fully expose not only [the President's] own involvement in Jose Pidal's activities but [also] her own misuse of public funds," he said in a one-page statement.

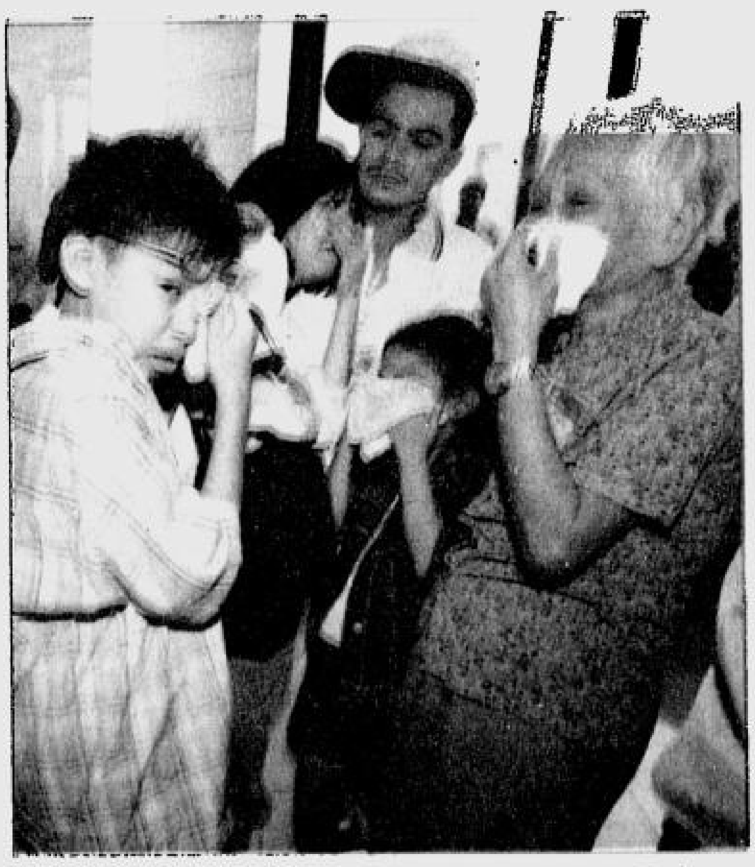
In his statement, Lacson said the legal tactics allegedly employed by the Macapagal administration might have prevented him from delivering his third privilege speech this week against Mr. Arroyo "as Jose Pidal, and the widespread corruption perpetrated by his cronies in tandem with some government offices."

"But this will not put a lid on the issue," he said. "I will not allow myself to be held hostage so they can continue with their corrupt activities."

He also said his "crusade against corruption" would not end with "the Supreme Court's harassment."

Earlier yesterday, some officials in Lacson's camp announced that the opposition senator

LACSON/ A4



ROGER MARCALLO

HOME AT LAST. Jose Diaz, one of 22 seamen jailed in the United Arab Emirates, has an emotional reunion with his family at the Naia on Wednesday. The seamen's release was facilitated by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and Philippine envoy to the UAE Amable Aguiluz. *(Story on Page A2.)*

PNP chief refuses to heed calls to quit

By Christian Esguerra, Dona Pazzibugan and Nelson Flores

A DEFIANT Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday refused to resign even after the PNP has had to endure another disgraceful incident under his watch.

In Bali, President Macapagal-Arroyo told reporters she would look into what appears to be a renewed clamor to sack the PNP chief.

She noted that Director Eduardo Matillano, the head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) has already gone on leave pending investigation.

Confessed terrorist bomber Fathur Al-Ghozi and two other Abu Sayyaf members escaped from their CIDG detention cell on July 14. Al-Ghozi, a top Jemaah Islamiyah operative, remains at large.

Insisting that he "serves under the pleasure of the President," Ebdane refused to yield to pressure coming loudest from politicians.

"I will get the full details when I get back. In any case I just thank God that it ended. Of

PNP/ A5

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/09/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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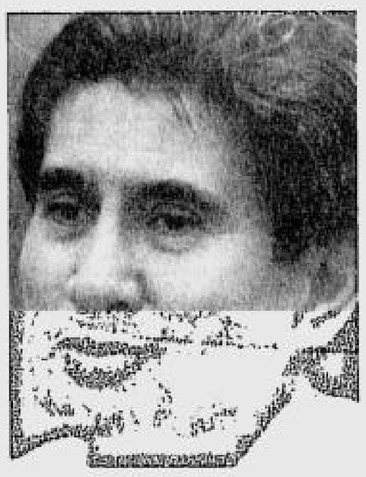
Second FRONT PAGE

COJUANGCO

DE CASTRO


HONASAN

LACSON

LEGARDA

POE

Opposition bets set 'primaries'

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE OPPOSITION will select its standard-bearer for 2004 by adopting a modified system of the presidential primaries used in choosing candidates in the United States.

The six known opposition presidential aspirants will go on a road show of six major cities starting next week, not to woo voters' support, but to engage in a series of public debates on key national issues, said Sen. Edgardo Angara, the leader of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

He said the six contenders—Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Senators Panfilo Lacson, Gregorio Honasan and Aquilino Pimentel Jr., movie star Fernando Poe Jr. and even broadcaster Sen. Noli de Castro, an independent—would be paraded in the cities of Laoag, Baguio, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Metro Manila.

It was unclear if Lacson would be able to join the road show as he has made himself scarce since the Supreme Court voted the other day to revive the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder in which Lacson is a prime suspect.

The idea was a brainchild of Pimentel who noted that the main stumbling block to a united opposition was the deep-seated differences among the parties. He said this was exacerbated by disagreements over the selection of a common candidate.

"The opposition is still fragmented. So how can we support a common standard-bearer?" he said.

Pimentel believes the series of debates would eliminate the "chaff from the grain" and help oppositionists "choose the aspirant most worthy of being its standard-bearer in the 2004 elections."

"In effect, this public discussions to be held in various regions will also be in the nature of consultations with the people in the regions who can give inputs for purposes of defining the standard-bearer," Pimentel said.

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto compared the process to the US primaries where political parties choose their candidates after aspirants go through a series of debates.

In the US system of presidential primaries, however, voters elect delegates who choose the party's candidates at a nominating convention.

Angara said his LDP was still working on the details of the road show.

"Maybe, we can ask Rotary Club and the Lions Club to serve as hosts," he said.

He explained that the opposition aspirants would not really be pitted against each other.

"It's not really a debate among themselves, it's really connecting to the citizens," he said.

At the end of the road show, the aspiring candidate could then assess his chances based on the people's reaction, Angara said.

As far as the topic of the debates gone, it will be "anything goes," he said.

But he stressed that the contenders must present their platform in the course of the debates.

Sotto said it was likely that a vice presidential running mate would be chosen from among the pool of presidential aspirants.

Despite his preference for Cojuangco, Angara said he would not side with anyone.

"I will content myself with being a moderator," he said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia D. Balana*

GMA free to choose running mate

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE RULING party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats would give President Macapagal-Arroyo a free hand in choosing her running mate in the 2004 elections, according to Palace officials.

"By political tradition, it is the standard-bearer who is given a free hand in choosing his or her running mate. There is a groundswell of opinion among party members to follow this tradition," said Gabriel Claudio, presidential legislative adviser.

The officials said that Ms Macapagal's running mate might not come from Lakas but most likely from other coalition members which include the Nationalist People's Coalition, Liberal Party and Aksyon Demokratiko.

Dodi Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and religious affairs, said the President would choose someone she is comfortable with as running mate.

"Her vote would count the most. In fact, it will be her call," said Limcaoco, who served as campaign director of the pro-administration People Power Coalition in the 2001 elections.

A Cabinet official, who declined to be named, said the President is still undecided on her vice presidential candidate.

Ms Macapagal announced her decision to stand for election in 2004 on Oct. 5 in Pampanga, reversing an earlier pledge in December last year not to run.

But the Cabinet official said the vice presidential candidate will most likely come from other parties in the administration.

"A coalition is forming so the coalition will have the right to demand that the vice president should come from the other parties in the coalition," the official said.

But Heherson Alvarez, Lakas-CMD spokesperson, said he does not see this possibility.

"At this point that will be difficult because there are so many candidates coming from Lakas," Alvarez said.

Lakas members have endorsed as possible VP candidates Lakas Senators Robert Barbers and Juan Flavier and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., an independent who was part of the PPC.

Claudio confirmed that Lakas is working to forge a coalition with its old and new allies, including the NPC which was not part of the PPC in 2001.

Alvarez said some members of the party have suggested formal talks with NPC founder Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco to convince him and his party to stay with the administration. But there are others objecting to it, he said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

Erap to Arnie: Do a Reagan

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger yesterday got advice from a fellow former actor, ousted President Joseph Estrada: Disprove a common notion that movie stars make lousy politicians.

Estrada, who has been detained on corruption charges since being deposed in massive protests two years ago, urged Schwarzenegger to serve the people well by bringing his on-screen heroics to the tangled reality of politics.

"The so-called learned people, with all their master's degrees, have no monopoly on leadership," Estrada said in a telephone interview from his military hospital detention suite.

Estrada cited the example of Ronald Reagan, who he said was a superb governor of California and then US president. He said movie stars do all kinds of roles and meet all sorts of people, widening their vistas and imbuing them with a strong sense of the public's needs.

"The advantage is you have a firsthand feel of the people's pulse because by portraying different roles you have the chance to talk with different kinds of people while you're making a movie. You find out their problems," Estrada said.

"The pitfall is if you do not perform—in the movies, it's just acting, but in politics, it's real life, it's different," he said.

Although he admitted he had not seen any of Schwarzenegger's films, Estrada said he was happy that another Hollywood actor has landed in politics and hoped the new California governor could repeat history "and do a Reagan."

Estrada said Reagan made him realize that the Philippine presidency was within his reach. *AP*

Mike A to Ping: Don't blame me for your legal woes

By Alcuin Papa

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo yesterday asked opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson not to blame him or the administration for the legal problems now hounding the senator.

Arroyo said it was "unfair of Senator Lacson to attribute his legal troubles to me or to the Macapagal administration."

"We would like to point out that his problems such as the Kuratong Baleleng murder case which happened in 1995 were entirely of his own making and have nothing to do with us," the First Gentleman said.

Arroyo said Lacson should just solve his legal problems before the courts instead of resorting to "squid tactics and black propaganda" to divert attention from Lacson's legal problems.

Proper forum

"We urge Senator Lacson to face his legal problems squarely and in the proper forum instead of resorting once again to mere squid tactics and muckraking," Arroyo said.

In a press conference shortly after his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Arroyo also challenged Lacson to present new and solid evidence "to back up the false and malicious accusations he made against us in his earlier privilege speeches."

Arroyo arrived yesterday from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) after fetching 22 seamen who were recently freed from jail in Abu Dhabi. Arroyo paid P7.5 million for the release of the seamen.

He scored Lacson for attempting to drag him into the senator's current legal difficulties after the Supreme Court rejected Lacson's appeal over the Kuratong Baleleng case.

"My focus on helping free our compatriots has been a form of respite from the vicious and unfounded attacks launched against me and my family by Senator Lacson. I have been informed that he has now accused us of having unduly influenced the Supreme Court with its decision to the Regional Trial Court to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case. This is entirely untrue and has absolutely no basis in fact," Arroyo said in his arrival statement.

Arrival

Arroyo arrived at around 12:45 p.m. yesterday aboard an Emirates airline flight.

The First Gentleman said Lacson made the accusation based on an interview with dzBB where the former gave his comment on the case. "Mr. Lacson extrapolated my answer as a sign that I had prior knowledge of the Supreme Court decision."

Comments

Arroyo explained that he made his comments on the case based on news clippings which his staff sent to him while in the UAE.

In particular, Arroyo said he culled his comment from the Sept. 29 column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

4 oil firms raise prices by 25c/liter

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOUR oil companies—Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell, Total Phil. and Unioil Petroleum Phil.—yesterday announced increased prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene products by 25 centavos per liter, to take effect at midnight last night.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. said it would follow suit at noon today.

The oil firms said, however, they would continue to give discounts to organized groups of jeepney and bus operators.

Petron public affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar said the company would continue to peg its diesel prices at P15.50 per liter—or 60 centavos less than the average retail price of P16.10 a liter—for jeepney operators in select service stations in Metro Manila.

Oil company officials explained that the 25-centavo price adjustment reflected the international market price movements of crude oil and currency exchange fluctuations in the past two months.

Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs Roberto S. Kanapi said the price increase was due to the rise in the acquisition cost of crude oil and other petroleum products in August.

Dubai crude prices rose to $27.66 in August from $26.72 in July. In the same period, the peso fell by P1.23 to P55 to the US dollar, from P53.77 in July.

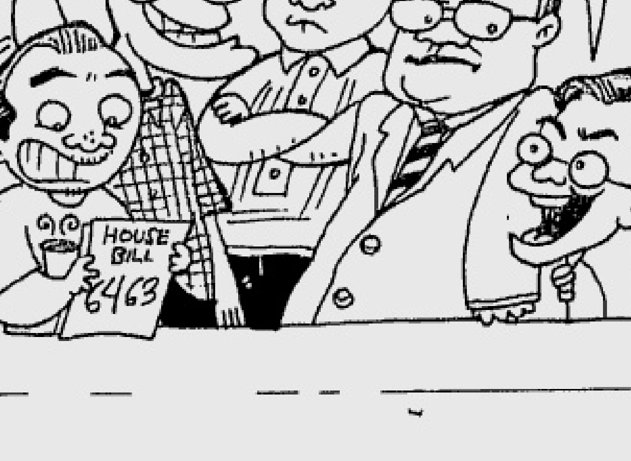
Instead of increasing the prices of their products to reflect the hike, the oil companies instituted a rollback last month.

Ruivivar said that while Petron should have increased its prices in September because of the rise in the price of crude last August, the company instead rolled back gasoline prices by 30 centavos and kerosene by 10 centavos a liter last month.

By September, average Dubai crude prices had slid by $2.29 per barrel to $25.37, from $27.66 in August.

In the same period, the peso depreciated by a centavo, from P55.01 to US$1 in August to P55.02 in September.

Lawmakers want Mawanays and Mahusays placed behind bars



By Carlito Pablo

WHISTLE-BLOWERS who cry felony and corruption and then reverse themselves could end up in jail ahead of the officials they are accusing.

Fed up with the antics of Angelo "Ador" Mawanay and Eugenio "Udong" Mahusay, three House legislators have filed a bill increasing the penalty for perjury to "protect the integrity of Congress and our citizens from con artists and reckless individuals" like them.

House Bill 6463—authored by Representatives Teodoro Locsin Jr., Ronaldo Zamora and Teodoro Etong—is meant to discourage whistle-blowers who "make injurious accusations against certain personalities only to retract their testimonies and affidavits for various reasons."

Mawanay last year accused Sen. Panfilo Lacson of narcotics trafficking and other crimes only to jump to Lacson's side and retract his charges, claiming that he was forced into making the allegations against the opposition senator by Lacson's political enemies.

Mahusay, a former employee of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, was Lacson's star witness in his headline-grabbing exposes in August in which he accused the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo of corruption and money laundering.

After a dramatic rescue from a Lacson safe house, Mahusay also ended up retracting his charges against Arroyo.

Under Article 183 of the Revised Penal Code, the penalty for the offense of false testimony and perjury ranges from four months imprisonment to two years, four months and one-day imprisonment.

HB 6463, filed yesterday by the three House members, seeks to increase the penalty to a range of six years and one-day imprisonment to a maximum of 10 years in jail.

The authors said the measure seeks to curb the "issuance of untruthful statements under oath, or false affidavits, specifically those committed in the course of an investigation or inquiry in any tribunal other than in a judicial proceeding."

The lawmakers said that the issuance and subsequent retraction of witnesses like Mawanay and Mahusay have "not only destroyed the reputation of certain personalities but also raised suspicions on the integrity of Congress in performing its mandate to inquiries and fact-finding investigations in aid of legislation."

Manila ready for Bush visit, says Palace

SECURITY forces are on alert for threats that could disrupt US President George W. Bush's whistle-stop visit to Manila later this month, a spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"We cannot deny that there are people and parties that may want to spoil the visit of the President of America by carrying out some disruptive activities. We have readied the police and the whole country to prevent and counter these plans," Deputy presidential spokesperson Ricardo Saludo said without naming any suspects.

But the President's top security adviser insisted there is no specific threat against the US President and his party when they arrive on Oct. 18.

"We're ready for him [Bush] and so far, we haven't received any specific threat against him. We really want his visit to be safe and be a big success," National Security Adviser Roilo Golez assured yesterday.

Golez added that the military and police have been closely coordinating for the past few weeks with American security agents already here in the country in preparation for the state visit.

The shortcomings of security in the Philippines were highlighted by an incident on Tuesday when one of several Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrillas held at the Camp Crame police headquarters staged a bloody escape attempt.

The rebel was shot dead after he killed three policemen and wounded three others.

Despite the incident which has put into question the local authorities capability to ensure security for the world's most powerful leader, Malacañang yesterday expressed confidence that the state visit would go on as scheduled.

Saludo said there was no indication that the US government would cancel or cut short his scheduled 8-hour visit to Manila as a result of the incident.

To prevent further incidents, national police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane said that all detainees would be immediately transferred from separate agencies to the main police "custodial center."

In a statement after the hostage fiasco, Ms Macapagal said that greater discipline and proactive measures are in order to prevent further incidents. Critics have blamed lax security for the attempted prison break. *Jerome Aning, Gil Cabacungan Jr. with AFP report*

Congress formally invites US president

CONGRESS formally invited US President George W. Bush yesterday to address a joint session when he visits the country next week.

The House of Representatives and the Senate set the joint session for Oct. 18 "to receive and hear the message" of the American president, who is expected to visit Manila en route to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Bangkok.

Government officials said that Bush's address to lawmakers is on his Manila itinerary and that US Secret Service agents were already inspecting the House building complex in suburban Quezon City, where the joint session will be held.

Some leftist lawmakers have said they plan to put up placards at the building entrance, saying "Bush no entry."

But House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales warned that any disruption of the session would be considered "disorderly behavior" and may be penalized by censure or expulsion. *AP*

ASEAN + JAPAN SUMMIT
BALI, INDONESIA
8 OCTOBER 2003

HANDS-ON President during the Asean summit held in Bali, Indonesia. The President was scheduled to return to the country last night via Cebu City. MACALAÑANG PHOTO

Militants pledge peaceful protest

By Norman Bordadora

MILITANT groups led by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday vowed to conduct their protest actions peacefully—including the burning of 100 American flags—during the state visit of US President George Bush on Oct. 18.

Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño also pledged to ensure that the long marches that would follow Bush from his supposed landing sites in either Clark Field or Subic Bay would be peaceful and orderly.

"The rallies will be violent only if the police and military use their truncheons, shields, tear gas and guns against us. We are ready to negotiate, but we shall not be banned," Casiño said in a news conference yesterday.

The mainstream Leftist alliance has declared Oct. 18 a "national day of protest."

In Manila, massive demonstrations will coincide with Bush's address at the joint session of Congress and the Malacañang state dinner.

Protests are also planned in other major cities and towns all over the country.

Similar protests are also expected in the Filipino-American communities in San Francisco and Seattle in the US. There will also be mass actions in Japan, Thailand and Australia.

Bayan will demand during Bush's visit the following: a stop to US occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, the removal of US troops in the Philippines, a stop to the military assistance and anti-terrorist funding to the "corrupt and anti-people."

Church groups and peace advocates are demanding the delisting of the New People's Army from the US terrorist list in order to push the GRP-NDFP peace talks.

Bayan is also calling for the clean-up of the former US bases in Clark and Subic, the return of the Balanggiga bells, and a public apology and reparation for war crimes committed by US forces during the Philippine-American War.

GMA questions int'l corruption report on RP

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday questioned the findings of a report by the sleaze watchdog Transparency International which ranked the Philippines among the world's most corrupt countries.

"It must be emphasized that this is a report on perceptions of corruption that does not take into consideration hard evidentiary cases, or positive actions by governments," the President said in a statement.

While it did not land at the bottom of the list, the Philippines ranked 92nd, scoring 2.5 out of 10, in the Berlin-based TI's survey of 133 nations perceived by academics, risk analysts and business leaders to be the least and most corrupt.

"We may not have breached the level of perceptions on corruption in our country but we are surely doing something about it, which is not reflected in the report," the President said.

Ms Macapagal said procedural reforms and lifestyle checks undertaken by the government were "taking their toll" on official corruption.

Revenue agencies were increasing collections because of the anti-graft mechanisms being implemented by her administration, she said.

"The drive for good governance is inexorably moving forward and we are confident it will eventually have an influence on perceptions of our country," she said.

A program to check the lifestyle of public servants, launched in August, resulted in the filing of graft cases against several high-ranking officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Former education secretary Raul Roco, a presidential aspirant, seized on the TI corruption report to launch an attack on Ms Macapagal who has declared her intention to seek a full term in next May's elections.

He said Ms Macapagal's claim that she has gained experience in encouraging business activities unhampered by corruption was false.

"The Philippines is more corrupt now than before," going by the results of the TI survey, Roco said in a statement.

"The Philippines scored 2.9 in the 2001 index. The score dropped to 2.6 in the 2002 index and this year, 2003, it is further down to 2.5. This means that in the last three years of the Macapagal administration, the Philippines has been perceived as growing more and more corrupt," he said.

A score of 10 means the country is perceived to be "highly clean" while zero means "highly corrupt" in the TI survey.

Finland was ranked the cleanest country, getting a near-perfect score of 9.7. Bangladesh was ranked the most corrupt nation on earth, with a score of 1.3. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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815 3121	687 2197	372 6634	717 0076	809 9583	243 8602	920 7992	860 2663/64	233 7633/35

OPENING HOURS
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00AM-7:00PM SATURDAY: 8:00AM-5:00PM

Corpus: Gov't witnesses can pin down Ping

From page A1

mony was that Lacson had ordered the execution of 11 alleged members of the Kuratong Baleleng robbery syndicate, and that he was "fully convinced" this could put the opposition senator in jail.

Private prosecutor Arno Sanidad of the Free Legal Assistance Group said the case was "actually simple."

"We need only to prove that the victims were brought alive to Camp Crame and were summarily executed later on," Sanidad said at a press conference. "We have witnesses who were present in both incidents."

There are six witnesses against Lacson in Isafp custody, including Senior Inspectors Ismael Yu and Abelardo Ramos, Corpus said. He said five new ones had surfaced, but he declined to name them.

He said the witnesses should be protected, "more so now because they're the ones who will prove the guilt of the accused."

The Supreme Court has also ordered that the case against Lacson and 33 others be consolidated and raffled to one of the six Quezon City special courts handling heinous crimes.

Hold-departure order

Once the case has been raffled off, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said yesterday, the Department of Justice would seek the issuance of a hold-departure order on Lacson and move for the extradition of his co-accused who had fled the country. Among them are Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, Lacson's lieutenants, who are in the United States.

Zuño heads the legal team that Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong has formed to handle the prosecution of the case.

Corpus said the Supreme Court ruling had been much awaited "in the same way that Lacson was hoping that the decision would come out in his favor."

"For me, it was long overdue," Corpus told reporters. Nevertheless, a lot can happen between now and the time the Quezon City Regional Trial Court hands down its decision on Lacson and company, he said.

"If the justice system grinds and the rule of law prevails, there are high chances that they will be convicted for murder," Corpus said, but added: "They can do a lot of things: threaten, bribe and do even worse things."

Corpus also said that should Lacson be ordered arrested for the trial, he would have no place at the Isafp detention center "because [it] is crammed with rebels and the mutinous soldiers."

Corpus quit as Isafp chief on July 29, two days after the failed mutiny of the Magdalo group in Makati City. He was recently named chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service.

He crossed swords with Lacson in the past, testifying before the Senate in 2001 on the latter's alleged involvement in high crimes. The findings of the Senate investigation have yet to be disclosed.

The ones to blame

Sanidad said that "if there is anyone whom Mr. Lacson should blame for what has happened in this case, it should be himself and all of his lawyers."

"The prosecution had nothing to do with all the delays that happened in the past eight years," Sanidad said.

The lawyer said the case went to the RTC, the Sandiganbayan, and the Supreme Court because of the legal maneuvers of Lacson's lawyers, "so he can't say that the case was revived only today."

Sanidad also said he was "sure" that Lacson's camp would not stop its delaying tactics to try to prevent the case from being tried.

"In fact, our challenge to them is, if they want the truth, let's go to court, let's have a trial. They claim [the case] is politically motivated, so they can prove otherwise," he said.

10 days before arrest

Sanidad said the prosecution could present its evidence in a week's time, and the defense could immediately follow.

"We can have a decision within a month or two. By December, during the last day of filing of certificates of candidacy for the presidency, he would have been acquitted. [That is,] if he really wants to present the truth in a court of law, which I really doubt," Sanidad said.

He said the judge who would receive the case had 10 days to issue an arrest warrant.

But the judge can also dismiss the case for lack of probable cause or order the prosecution to produce additional evidence within five days, he said.

If the judge requires additional evidence, Sanidad added, he should rule on the case within 30 days after receiving such evidence.

Sign of guilt

Sanidad said he and the other private prosecutors expected authorities to arrest Lacson "within two days" after the warrant is issued.

The lawyer the private prosecutors said they did not expect the senator to hide: "It will speak badly of Mr. Lacson. Besides, flight is a sign of guilt."

Sanidad also said: "I still have to hear Mr. Lacson say in public, 'I am innocent of the crime.' What does he say? 'Political persecution.'

"Why? because he knows the evidence we have against him. He knows that the evidence is true, that the evidence will finally convict him."

Extradition

Justice Undersecretary Ma. Merceditas Gutierrez said that once the warrant is out, the DOJ would also move for the extradition of Lacson's co-accused.

"We have information as to where they are," she said. "The moment we have the warrants of arrest, we will move for extradition. Yes, we are ready."

The Zuño-led legal team has for members City Prosecutor Claro Arellano of Quezon City, State Prosecutors Peter Ong, Olivia Non, Anthony Fadullon, and Ruben Zacarias, and Assistant City Prosecutors Lorna Chua Cheng, Jonathan Liedo and Rolando Vergara.

Datumanong Zuno's team they would work with Sanidad and the other FLAG lawyers.

The justice secretary described the DOJ lawyers and the private lawyers as "among the best in the country."

"The DOJ has to put the best prosecutors there because the other side will also have good lawyers. There will be a battle of legal wits," he said.

Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation, said the Philippine National Police would be in charge of arresting and detaining Lacson should a warrant be issued.

Wycoco, a known adversary of Lacson, said the NBI would keep its hands off Lacson's possible arrest and stick to its role as chief investigator in charge of the buildup of the alleged rubout case and the inventory of evidence and witnesses.

Besides, Wycoco said, the PNP had more personnel and resources to effect the possible arrest of Lacson and company. He said the NBI and the PNP agreed on the matter in earlier meetings.

Lacson was PNP chief during the Estrada administration.

Beyond politics

According to "running priest" Robert Reyes, the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case would fizzle out if it turns out to be politically motivated.

"I hope this is beyond politics. Because if it is a move to remove [Lacson] from the presidential elections, it will not hold," Reyes told reporters at the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines office in Manila, where he attended a forum on the abolition of the death penalty law.

Reyes, who heads the civil rights group Gomburza, called on Lacson to "face the music and fight the case in court."

He expressed the hope that Lacson would prove himself "cleaner than Jose Pidal"—a reference to what the senator had claimed to be the alias of the President's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo.

"But if you are as dirty as, or dirtier than, Jose Pidal, I think both of you should share a prison cell for your mutual education and purification," the priest added. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Leila B. Salaverria and Jerome Aning in Manila; Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Bali*

Bow to SC order

IN BALI, President Macapagal-Arroyo said Lacson should bow to the Supreme Court order.

"Every Filipino must be bound by the rule of law," she said in a statement issued yesterday morning.

The President also denied Lacson's accusation that Malacañang had exerted pressure on the high court to release its ruling on the Kuratong Baleleng case.

"It's not true," she told reporters late Tuesday, her second day in Bali for the 9th Asean Leaders' Summit.

"The high court has spoken and must be unconditionally obeyed. My office has never pressured the court in any of its decisions and has unhesitatingly complied with those as a matter of public duty," she said.

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

EN BANC

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR ANNULMENT OF THE EXISTING BOOK OF VOTERS, LIST OF VOTERS (CVL), AND TO CONDUCT A GENERAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BIÑAN, LAGUNA ONLY FOR PURPOSE OF MAY 2004 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

SPP NO. 03-121

ACTING ELECTION OFFICER,
Petitioner.
x---x

NOTICE

1. **MR. EDGARDO DS. MARFIL**
   Acting Election Officer
   Petitioner
   Office of the Election Officer
   Commission on Elections
   Biñan, Laguna
   (Please notify all interested parties)
2. **THE REGIONAL ELECTION DIRECTOR**
   Region IV, Commission on Elections
   Intramuros, Manila
   (Please notify all interested parties)
3. **THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION SUPERVISOR**
   Commission on Elections
   Sta. Cruz, Laguna
   (Please notify interested parties)
4. **THE FINANCE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
   This Commission
5. **THE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**
   This Commission

GREETINGS:

Attached is a copy of the **ORDER** of the Commission (En Banc) in the above-entitled case dated October 7, 2003.

Manila, October 7, 2003.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

MA. JOSEFINA E. DELA CRUZ
Clerk of the Commission

EN BANC

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR ANNULMENT OF THE EXISTING BOOK OF VOTERS, LIST OF VOTERS (CVL), AND TO CONDUCT A GENERAL REGISTRATION OF VOTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BIÑAN, LAGUNA ONLY FOR PURPOSE OF MAY 2004 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

SPP NO. 03-121

ACTING ELECTION OFFICER,
Petitioner.
x---x

ORDER

Acting on the petition for annulment of existing book of voters, list of voters (CVL) and to conduct a general registration of voters in the municipality of Biñan, Province of Laguna filed by Acting Election Officer Edgardo DS. Marfil, the Commission, hereby **orders as follows:**

1. to set this instant case for hearing on **14 October 2003 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning,** Comelec Session Hall, Intramuros, Manila;
2. to ***direct*** the Education and Information Department to publish this Order in two (2) newspapers of general circulation prior to the date of the hearing;
3. to ***direct*** the Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisor and the Election Officer concerned to post this Order together with the notice of hearing in conspicuous public places and to disseminate the same in the province or municipality concerned;
4. to ***direct*** the Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisor and Election Officer concerned to furnish all registered political parties, organization or coalition of political parties and/or interested parties in the province or municipality concerned;
5. to ***direct*** the Regional Election Director, Provincial Election Supervisor and Election Officer concerned to submit to this Commission compliance of this Order prior to the date of the hearing; and
6. to ***direct*** the Finance Services Department to immediately advance the expenses for the publication of this Order.

After consultation with the Commission en banc, the provision of Sec. 3, Rule 31 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure is hereby suspended in the interest of justice and in order to obtain speedy disposition of this case in view of the implementation of the modernization project of the Commission.

Sec.4, Rule 1 of the Comelec Rules of Procedure provides:

> *"Sec. 4. Suspension of the Rules. - In the interest of justice and in order to obtain speedy disposition of all matters pending before the Commission, these rules or any portion thereof may be suspended by the Commission."*

SO ORDERED.

Given this 7th day of October 2003, Manila, Philippines.

FOR THE COMMISSION:

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

Lacson says he'll implicate GMA . . .

From page A1

would surface and deliver another privilege speech against Arroyo.

But Lacson's political adviser Lito Banayo subsequently announced in radio interviews that the speech would be delivered next week.

In his statement, Lacson, who has declared interest in seeking the presidency in 2004, urged the public to be patient as "I hurdle the legal obstacles thrown my way to stop me in our crusade for good governance."

He said the "flawed" Supreme Court ruling Tuesday ordering the reopening of the case and its re-raffle to one of the special courts handling heinous crimes showed that the tribunal was "a party to a grand design to prevent me from pursuing my crusade against massive corruption for our people, and ultimately to prevent me from opposing the President's election."

Lawyers of the senator yesterday filed an 11-page motion asking the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision to re-raffle the case because neither he nor the government had asked for it.

The case was initially filed in the court of Judge Theresa Yadao of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81.

Lacson, however, said Branch 81 was also a "heinous crimes court."

He said there was "no reason" for the tribunal to direct the re-raffle of the case to another branch of the Quezon City RTC. He said that "if there were compelling reasons" to do so, these would have been addressed in the tribunal's resolutions dated May 28, 2002 and April 1, 2003.

"More telling is the lack of a motion for reconsideration from [the government's side] assailing the remand of the KB cases to Branch 81 of the RTC-QC," he said, adding:

"Petitioners simply did not see fit to question the remand of the cases, without a re-assignment by raffle, by filing a motion for reconsideration.

"They accepted the competence, impartiality, and ability of that court to resolve the KB cases."

Wrong impression

But Senate President Franklin Drilon said Lacson was making "serious allegations" against the President and, "as a responsible senator," should make sure he could substantiate these.

Drilon urged Lacson to "surface," and noted that the latter had not been attending the session for the past three days.

According to Drilon, Lacson again informed the Senate that he would be absent at yesterday's session in order to attend to a previous engagement.

Drilon said the senator's continued absence "gives a wrong impression that he has gone underground."

"Maybe that is not his intention, but that is how it appears to be," the Senate president said, and urged Lacson to continue to seek relief from the courts.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Lacson's colleague in the opposition, likewise said it would be "best for him to surface and challenge the findings according to the rules of the law."

"[This is] so he can set an example," Pimentel said in a phone interview.

Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said he had not spoken with Lacson yet but believed that the latter was "willing to face challenges and ... to face the media—or the public, for that matter—to explain his side."

"If there is a way we can help, we will always help a member of the minority or a colleague within the bounds of the law," Sotto told reporters.

Another ploy

Lacson said the Supreme Court violated existing court rules and procedures when it ordered the re-raffle of the case instead of remanding it back to the Quezon City RTC Branch 81.

"It is another ploy and a trap to ensure my incarceration without due cause and due process," he said.

He also said the justices had committed "one shameful act after another."

"First, they ruled to seek clarification from Branch 81 if the requirements for the provisional dismissal were followed," he said. "Then, without waiting for the lower court's compliance, they arrogated unto themselves what they originally told the lower court to do, and violated a basic doctrine on retroactivity of a new rule when favorable to the accused.

"Now they rule on something not even included in the pleadings of both the prosecution and the defense."

Underdog

Lacson's allies in Cebu believe that the Supreme Court ruling reopening the Kuratong Baleleng case for trial and the possibility that he would he sent to prison would only strengthen his chances for the presidency in the 2004 elections.

The senator in prison will in fact bring him sympathy votes because of the Filipinos' preference for the underdog, according to lawyer Fritz Quinanola, a retired chief superintendent.

Quinanola, who heads the Bisdak-Lacson, a Cebu-based movement supporting the senator's ambition for the presidency, said Lacson's chances of winning the election would increase if he is sent to jail.

Campaign strategy

"That is a campaign strategy because the Filipino people know that the Kuratong Baleleng issue was revived because he belongs to the opposition," Quinanola said in Cebuano.

He pointed out that many Filipino leaders had been sent to prison, and cited the late former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., who, he said, would not have been regarded a hero if he were not imprisoned during martial law.

Quinanola volunteered to lead the campaign if Lacson is sent to jail.

But he said he hoped that Lacson would be able to withstand the problem, and advised the senator to face the charges. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

PNP chief refuses to heed calls to resign

From page A1

course I feel very bad about the three policemen who gave up their lives," added the President, who was at the Indonesian island resort of Bali to attend the 9th Asean Leaders' Summit.

Probe

In a statement yesterday, Ms Macapagal said she would decide on Ebdane's fate soon.

"I have already ordered a summary probe on the incident and I shall decide on its results once they are in," she said.

The National Police Commission (Napolcom) yesterday ordered an investigation of the Camp Crame shooting upon instructions by Napolcom chair, Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina.

"While the PNP is doing its own investigation, it is incumbent upon the Napolcom to conduct a parallel probe on the incident," Napolcom Commissioner Linda Malenab-Hornilla said in a statement.

She adds that "the incident greatly affects the police organization."

Lina said he expected to receive the findings and recommendations by the Napolcom's five-man investigating team three days from Oct. 7, the date he issued the directive.

Rush construction

The President also ordered the Department of Interior and Local Government and the PNP to rush the construction of a maximum security detention facility in Camp Crame to prevent the escape of other high-profile detainees and other "untoward incidents."

Speaking through PNP information officer Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, Ebdane said there was no need for his resignation because the PNP had been addressing the prison security problem before Tuesday's three-hour shooting rampage by an Abu Sayyaf detainee right inside police headquarters in Camp Crame.

Ebdane reportedly fell sick the day after he supervised the operation against Abu Sayyaf member Buyungan Bungkak who gunned down three policemen and wounded three others before he was himself cornered and killed.

"Appropriate measures have been taken," Bataoil told the INQUIRER. "Criticisms will serve as a guide and a challenge for us to work harder."

Special Action Force

Beginning yesterday, the elite PNP Special Action Force took over the "security supervision of Camp Crame and all the tenant units located therein" from the heavily criticized base police. Senior Supt. Silverio Alarcio, SAF deputy director, was tasked to oversee camp security.

Six high-risk detainees were transferred from the CIDG's Office of Businessmen's Concern, where Bungkak was detained, to the compound of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response Team at around 3 p.m. yesterday.

Four of the inmates—Bas Ismael, Abdul Jamin Assanul, Madzul Ladja, and Rajak Sagomayan—were Bungkak's fellow suspects in the Zamboanga City bombings in October last year.

Other detainees

The two other detainees were Dante Ambo, a suspect in the bombing of SM Megamall, and PO2 Tomas Sarmiento, who was implicated in the murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito in 2000.

The six inmates, along with "pyramid scam" suspect Ervin Mateo, were at the OBC building when Bungkak seized the M-16 rifle of his escort and went on a shooting rampage. Mateo is now the lone inmate at the OBC jail.

Ebdane also ordered his men to expedite the construction of the custodial center that would house all PNP detainees. The project was started after the daring escape of Al-Ghozi.

The facility will have 28 rooms equally distributed into four "quadrants," according to Senior Supt. Joel Goltiao, executive officer of the Human Resources and Doctrine Development.

Following Ebdane's directive, the PNP yesterday began the weeklong training of 61 of the 112 jail guards who will be assigned to the PNP custodial center. Trainees include members of the SAF and the Headquarters Support Service.

Goltiao said the seminar would focus on the need to prevent "familiarity" between inmates and jail guards, a situation which was said to have developed before Bungkak's rampage.

"We will not allow them to talk to prisoners because this is where familiarity begins," he told reporters.

At the custodial center located behind the Pacer compound, guards will be armed with M-16 rifles, shotguns, stun guns, tear gas sprayers and gas masks, according to Goltiao.

Ebdane support

In support of Ebdane, Lina yesterday cited a report by the PNP chief that 3,085 loose firearms had been recovered by the police during the first two quarters of the year.

Citing the Ebdane report, Lina said the recovery of the loose firearms was the result of Oplan Paglalansag Omega. He added that the operation also resulted in the arrest of 2,537 people and the filing of 1,804 criminal cases in different courts nationwide.

"Oplan Paglalansag Omega is an attempt by the government to create a peaceful environment throughout the country," Lina, quoting Ebdane, said.

Lina said that of the total number of firearms seized, 583 are considered high powered while the rest are low caliber firearms. He added that of the total number of people arrested, eight are government officials, 18 were soldiers, 20, policemen while the rest are civilians.

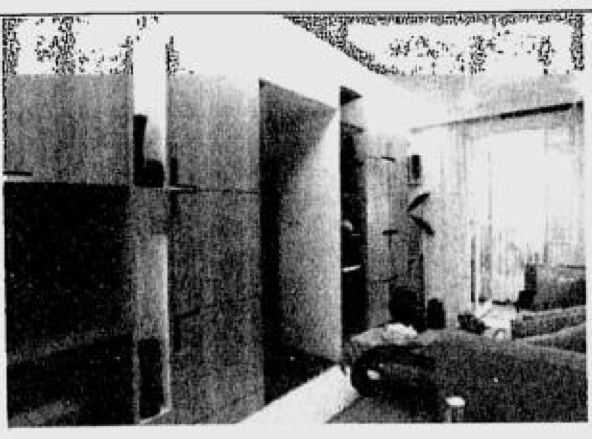
The report, Lina added, also showed that Metro Manila had the highest number of confiscated and/or surrendered firearms with 417, followed by Region 6 and 7 with 399 and 348 firearms respectively. A close fourth was Central Luzon where 318 firearms were recovered.

This year's recovery and seizure of loose firearms was lower compared to the same period last year.

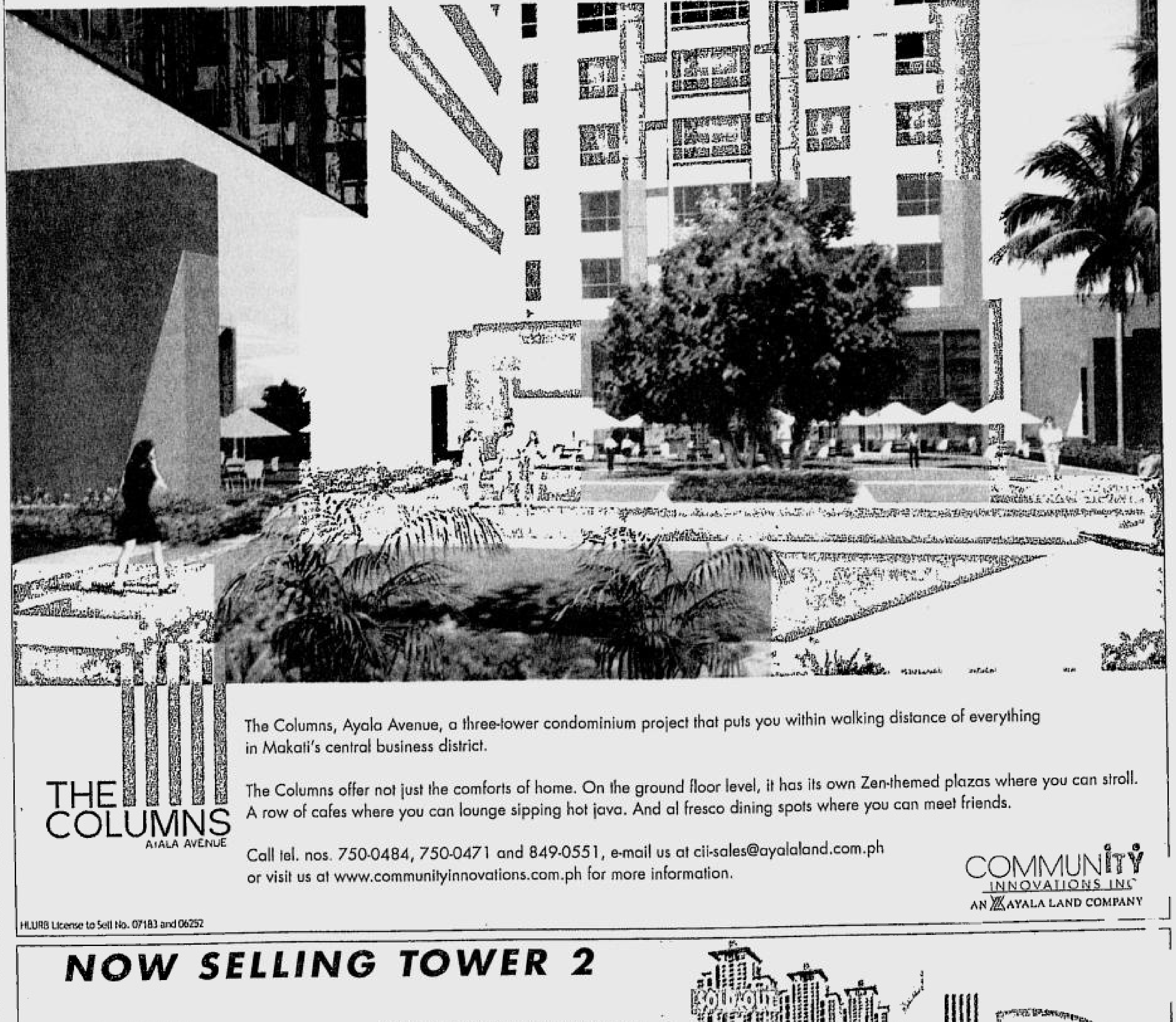
Records showed that 3,256 firearms were recovered last year while 2,630 people were arrested and 1,688 criminal cases were filed in court from Jan. 1 to June 30, 2002. *With a report from Christine Paita*

Guess who just turned 21...
Turn to page 3 to find out.

One bedroom upstairs.



And downstairs, cafes to unwind in, al fresco dining places to entertain friends, and Zen-themed plazas to calm you down.



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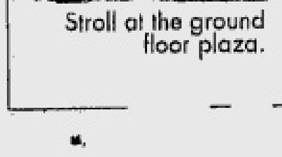

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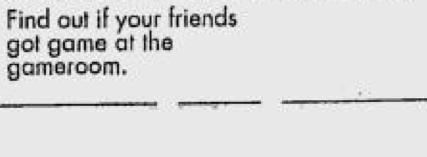
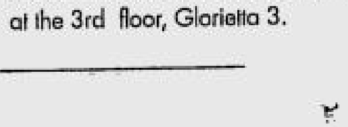


Find out if your friends got game at the gameroom.



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Lakas members rooting for Danding warned

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Leoncio Balbin Jr.,
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Cynthia Balana
in Manila

URDANETA CITY—Pangasinan officials who belong to the administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats are in a quandary: After endorsing Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. of the National People's Coalition, how can they sign a manifesto of support for President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Binalonan Mayor Ramon Guico Jr., president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), said the mayors from Northern Luzon are expected to sign a manifesto of support for Ms Macapagal after their two-day meeting in Metro Manila this week.

But a Lakas mayor from central Pangasinan claimed that many mayors in the province are not signing the manifesto, saying they are waiting for Cojuangco's decision to run for president in 2004.

"Let us wait until Oct. 15 when (Cojuangco) will announce his decision," said Urdaneta City Mayor Amadeo Perez Jr.

Congressmen, too

In Manila, Heherson Alvarez, Lakas-CMD spokesperson, warned party members who would defy the unanimous decision of the Lakas national directorate to endorse the candidacy of President Macapagal.

Alvarez was referring to about 20 congressmen who, according to him, said they would not support a Macapagal candidacy although they would still remain in the party.

Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental said he was one of them, but insisted that there were 49 other congressmen who had declared their intention to support other presidential candidates.

Paras said his group consists of 10 Lakas congressmen who are already committed to support Cojuangco. The others, he said, would either not support Ms Macapagal but remained in the party, or support Raul Roco for president.

Leave Lakas

But Alvarez said the party will soon serve notice to these congressmen to leave the party if they cannot support Ms Macapagal.

"This is a sort of loyalty check. I will talk to the mayors to find out who are willing to sign the manifesto of support for the President. If they do not want to, then it's okay," Guico said.

But he also warned the mayors against duplicity.

"It's not good to cast your lot with both parties. But in case Cojuangco decides not to run and they (mayors) try to come back (to Lakas), sorry, we will pit our official candidates against (them)," Guico said.

He said the LMP's executive committee has signed a separate manifesto of support for the President.

Gov. Victor Agbayani, Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino, provincial board members and at least 37 mayors had endorsed Cojuangco in August, saying they wanted the businessman to run because Ms Macapagal had announced last December that she was out of the race.

FPJ

Businessman Rosendo So, who leads the Cojuangco for President Movement in Northern Luzon, said that before the business tycoon left for the US recently, he said that the opposition's candidate may not necessarily be himself but someone who could muster the votes.

"It's now a choice between him and FPJ (Poe)," So said.

In Ilocos Sur, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson admitted that Poe would give Ms Macapagal a good fight in 2004.

Not ordinary party

"FPJ is the opposition's last card," Singson told the Inquirer on Tuesday night after attending the Lakas-CMD national directorate meeting at the Club Filipino.

Alvarez stressed that the Lakas-CMD was not an ordinary political agrupation that was why its principles were drawn from the "great principles" of Christianity and Islam.

Alvarez said that for every member who would leave the party, 10 new recruits would replace them.

But Paras said he had already invested a lot in the party and that leaving it would not be easy.

He said that as a Lakas leader in his province, he was able to ensure the victory in his district of former President Fidel Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia in previous presidential elections. He said no other Lakas members can match this feat.

Cojuangco scores victory at Sandigan

From page A1

action was needed.

The antigraft court said only one member of the PCGG had signed all but one of the sequestration orders, when at least two signatures were required. "The writs of sequestration ... are hereby declared automatically lifted for being null and void," the court said.

Merits of case

PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac said the Sandiganbayan ruling had nothing to do with the merits of the case. "This is based on a technicality and the belief of the Sandiganbayan that the sequestration order of the PCGG was void because it was issued by only one commissioner," Yorac said.

There is now a rule that two commissioners should sign the sequestration order. However, Yorac said a two-member rule was adopted after sequestration orders involving San Miguel were made.

Yorac said Cojuangco would not be able to dispose of the shares. "As soon as the PCGG receives the Sandiganbayan ruling, the PCGG will file a motion for reconsideration and the PCGG will argue that the sequestration order was valid because even if only one commissioner signed that time, the two-member rule was not yet adopted," she said.

Voting in favor of lifting all the nine orders were Associate Justices Diosdado Peralta (the division chair), Gregory Ong and Francisco Villaruz Jr. Associate Justices Teresita Leonardo de Castro wanted only seven of the nine orders lifted, while Godofredo Legaspi approved the lifting of eight.

The three-member 1st Division convened into a "Division of Five" to resolve the matter.

The sequestration orders covered not only the San Miguel shares but other ill-gotten assets of the Marcoses and their cronies.

The ruling, however, ensured that San Miguel, the largest company listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, would be unable to profit from the disputed bloc for the time being, "since the Republic continues to hold a claim on the shares which has yet to be resolved."

Escrow

The court said Cojuangco et al. should notify the PCGG 20 days before they sell or dispose of the shares. Should Cojuangco and company decide to sell the shares, proceeds of the sale will remain in an escrow account with the Land Bank of the Philippines.

"Any sale, pledge, mortgage or other disposition of any of the shares of defendants Cojuangco et al. shall be subject to the outcome of this case," the Sandiganbayan said.

A legal expert privy to the case said Cojuangco "can now actually sell the shares but subject to the approval or conditions set by the court."

"But who's willing to buy them right now, considering that they are still under litigation? The court merely removed the shares from PCGG's custody and has yet to decide who's the real owner of the shares," said the source who declined to be identified.

Not full victory

The least Cojuangco can claim for now is a "moral victory—that after all, the PCGG had no legal basis for sequestering the shares," the source said.

The Cojuangco camp welcomed the ruling but appeared careful not to claim full victory.

A statement issued by his camp said: "Upon being informed, Mr. Cojuangco expressed gratification over the resolution of the Sandiganbayan lifting the sequestration.

"He noted, however, that on the basis of the resolution of the Sandiganbayan, it would appear that the deprivation of the exercise of rights over the shares since 1986, particularly the right to vote the shares, has been inappropriate and without legal basis."

The court thus ruled in favor of the series of motions filed by Cojuangco on Sept. 23, 1996, Jan. 3, 1997, and March 5, 1999, asking the court to declare the sequestration orders null and void.

The motions mainly cited two grounds which the Sandiganbayan upheld: That the orders were not backed by "prior determination" prima facie evidence and that each order was signed by only one PCGG commissioner in violation of the commission's own "two-commissioner rule," which took effect on April 11, 1986.

Biggest issue

Astro del Castillo, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, said the ruling was a victory for Cojuangco but warned the dispute was far from over.

"It's a small victory for Mr. Cojuangco, but that has really not changed the big picture. I think this case will drag on and I'm sure the government will appeal the case all the way to the Supreme Court," Del Castillo said.

"The bigger issue of ownership has not yet been resolved." *With a report from AFP*

Joker: Did Palace ...

From page A1

"Who knows reconciliation could be in the works?" he noted. "That's one step toward further improvement in certainty on ownership," Claudio said. "With less uncertainties, management has better options in running the company."

Voting control

The ruling is expected to solidify Cojuangco's voting control over the food and beverage giant.

Rising on a question of personal privilege, Arroyo asked his colleagues to stop their petty squabble over minor matters, and attend to a more serious concern.

"I just want to call the attention of the Senate because we quibble over the reading of the journal, but somehow we forget the bigger picture about those in high places," he said.

Arroyo then informed the Senate that the Sandiganbayan had issued an order lifting the sequestration order on 20 percent of San Miguel.

He said the order had allowed Cojuangco to vote the sequestered shares, "yet the hearing of this motion is set for Oct. 21."

The senator said the question that begged for an answer was: "Why the sudden hurry of the Sandiganbayan? A few days? Yet it made a preemptive move."

Political equation

Arroyo then urged his colleagues to get their act together and inquire into the matter, saying that "if a deal is going on between Malacañang and former Ambassador Cojuangco both on the San Miguel shares and the political equation, then something wrong is going on."

He said senators should rise to the occasion and fulfill their solemn duty to inquire into the excesses of occupants of "the high places."

"In these troubled times, we want to know the direction of Malacañang. Just what does Malacañang have in mind? Is Malacañang trafficking with Ambassador Cojuangco who has publicly opposed the President? Or are they having deals behind our backs?"

He added: "So much has been going on, then perhaps it is time that we must speak out on this serious issue. Generally, the majority of the Senate is supportive of the President's position. But we vote against her on certain issues."

Asean inks historic pacts with China, India, Japan

From page A1

Asian Nations, the first country outside the region to do so, while the region's biggest investor Japan signed a pledge to reduce tariffs and non-tariff barriers. Another nuclear state, India, was to follow suit later in the day.

With that signing, Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda, said "we (will) have almost three billion people grouped under the same rules of good conduct."

He said he hoped Japan, South Korea and Russia would soon sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, which already binds all Asean members and renounces the threat or use of force to settle disputes.

The deals were signed on the closing day of the Asean summit. It was held here so that organizers could show that the region would not be paralyzed by last year's bloody bombings on the resort island.

Element of trust

"It will certainly help to develop not only peace and stability, but prosperity in the region," Wirayuda said.

"It shows the element of trust between China and Asean. That's a very important statement by both sides," Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said.

China and some Asean states have overlapping claims to the potentially oil-rich Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea. Vietnam, which is now an Asean member, and China have clashed twice over the Spratlys, in 1988 and 1992, and they fought a brief land border war in 1978.

Asean comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Burma (Myanmar), Malaysia and Thailand.

Asean and China also signed a "Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity" after a summit between the two sides.

The "strategic partnership" with China commits the two sides to speed up talks on establishing a free trade area by 2010 which will cover 1.7 billion consumers with a combined gross domestic product of $2 trillion.

"It's good for the region. It's good for the rest of the world," Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said.

China and India have been siphoning off an increasing share of foreign investment and trade in Asia in recent years, and many Asean members are concerned that their larger Asian neighbors will economically overpower Southeast Asia, where many of its 500 million people live in poverty.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has enthusiastically promoted closer ties during his visit to Bali, saying China should be seen as an opportunity rather than an economic threat.

"China cannot develop without the support of the rest of East Asia, and the prosperity of East Asia also needs China," Wen said.

Asean-China trade amounted to $55.4 billion in 2001, with trade growing by an average of 25.7 percent annually between 1993 and 2001, according to the latest Asean statistics.

Trade deal

Japan signed a wide-ranging trade deal with Asean. During the ceremony, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, currently Asean chair, exchanged copies of the agreement amid applause, handshakes and broad smiles.

Japan has traditionally been Southeast Asia's largest trading partner and investor, with two-way trade amounting to $99.2 billion in 2001 or 14.4 percent of Asean's total trade. However, in contrast to China, Japan has seen its Asean trade drop from a peak of $121.2 billion in 1995.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee also was in Bali to sign his country's first agreements with Asean. In the past decade, India's annual trade with the regional grouping has tripled from about $3 billion to $10 billion.

Asean leaders on Tuesday signed the Bali Concord II, which envisions an economic community by 2020 in a region whose annual trade currently totals $720 billion but does not create a political union like Western Europe's or a military alliance akin to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It calls for a regional security community to combat terrorism and other transnational crimes.

Next Sunday is the first anniversary of the Bali nightclub bombings carried out by Muslim militants. The attacks killed 202 people, mostly tourists, and added a drag on economies still rebounding from the 1997-98 financial crisis.

The issue of Burma's crackdown on the opposition refused to go away, even though Asean leaders had avoided any public criticism of their military-ruled fellow member.

"Japan wants to see democracy restored in Myanmar and Asean has a role to play in this aspect," a regional official quoted Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi as telling the meeting.

The Southeast Asians were to hold another summit with South Korea yesterday, with the North Korean nuclear crisis expected to be high on the agenda. *AP and AFP*

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Take back GMA award, fisherfolk ask Inquirer

From page A1

of President Macapagal-Arroyo as its 2002 Filipino of the Year after she turned back on her word that she would not run in next year's presidential election.

'Swindled'

Pamalakaya said Ms Macapagal "swindled" the Inquirer and the entire nation when she took back last Saturday her Dec. 30 declaration that she would no longer seek the presidency.

Last Jan. 10, the Inquirer announced it was honoring Ms Macapagal as its 2002 Filipino of the Year "not because of her outstanding achievements in 2002 but because her stunning decision (on Dec. 30) not to stand for election fundamentally reshaped the political landscape leading up to 2004, or possibly, even beyond her presidency."

Of the 31 editors who had voted, Ms Macapagal at first got only two votes. Initially, the clear winner was Acsa Ramirez, the Land Bank of the Philippines whistle-blower in the P203-million tax diversion scam who the National Bureau of Investigation had presented to the media as a suspect in the irregularity. Ramirez had symbolized the Filipino as a perennial victim.

But after her Dec. 30 announcement in which Ms Macapagal said she would not run for election in 2004 mainly to heal a "deeply divided" country, 10 editors changed their votes, giving her 12 votes, or 38.71 percent, of the votes cast.

The Inquirer yearly awards the Filipino of the Year to honor an outstanding Filipino who made the most positive impact on the life of the nation.

Give it to Acsa

Pamalakaya said the Inquirer should instead give the award to Ramirez "in honor of brave Filipinos who stood their ground to fight corruption and the power-trippers in the Macapagal government."

"At any given time of day, we will choose Acsa over the corrupt and arrogant President Macapagal. We hope this matter would merit the attention of the Inquirer in the name of truth, justice and fair play," said Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz.

Corpuz said Ms Macapagal "took everybody on a roller-coaster ride" when she made her announcement in Baguio City on Rizal Day last year.

"The Inquirer editors should take back the Filipino of the Year award from President Macapagal's possession. We believe this issue is valid, legitimate and upright," Corpuz said.

Moral basis of award

Corpuz said Ms Macapagal "grossly violated the moral and political basis of the award" when she reneged on her promise not to run in the May 2004 elections.

He said the President's Dec. 30 declaration was "meant for political playtime to cut further political losses and get a respite from pressures emanating from severe criticisms and an environment of political isolation."

Other nominees

The other nominees for the 2002 Filipino of the Year award were Bayani Fernando, the Abadilla 5, Eugenia Duran-Apostol, Manuel Pangilinan, Teofisto Guingona, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sulficio Tagud, Manny Pacquiao, Raul Roco, Dinky Soliman and Jaime Augusto Zobel.

Previous winners were Raymundo Punongbayan (1991), Haydee Yorac (1992), Juan Flavier (1993), overseas contract workers (1994), Filipino everyman: victim and victor (1995), Fidel V. Ramos (1996), Corazon Aquino and Jaime Cardinal Sin (1997), Joseph Estrada (1998), Corazon Aquino (1999), Chief Justice Hilario Davide (2000), and Supreme Court justices (2001).

172 NPA child rebels captured

Military says kids arrested in past six years

GOVERNMENT troops have captured 172 children recruited by communist insurgents in the past six years, showing that the rebels are violating conventions on child soldiers, an official statement said Wednesday.

Military records show that from January 1997 to June 2003, a total of 122 boys and 50 girls were captured while working with the communist New People's Army (NPA) as "combatants, courier guides, medics or spies."

These children were turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development after capture, the statement said. The military did not give the ages of the children.

The military also cited recent NPA statements openly boasting "more and more youth join the revolutionary movement and the NPA," as proof that the guerrillas were openly recruiting children despite conventions against this.

Communist insurgents capitalize on the idealism of the youth as well as their sense of nationalism and adventure to recruit them through "front organizations" in the student sector, the military charged.

Such new recruits first take part in urban protest rallies, then are invited to visit communist guerrillas in rural areas where they will end up participating in "offensive actions" against the military, the statement charged.

The NPA is waging a 34-year Maoist rebellion. *AFP*

Pentagon found remiss in sale of surplus lab gear, safety suits

Some items ended up in the Philippines

WASHINGTON—Undercover congressional investigators using the Internet were able to buy thousands of dollars of surplus laboratory equipment and protective gear from Defense Department laboratories that could be used to make biological and chemical weapons.

To show how easily and cheaply such items could be acquired, the General Accounting Office told Congress on Tuesday investigators spent $4,100 to buy Defense Department equipment including a biological safety cabinet, a bacteriological incubator, an evaporator and protective clothing with an original cost of $46,900.

The GAO also said thousands of defective protective suits the Pentagon was trying to pull from circulation may have found their way to state and local law enforcement agencies and other first responder units.

"DOD should not be a discount outlet for bioterrorism equipment," Rep. Christopher Shays, a Connecticut Republican who chairs the House Government Reform subcommittee on national security and emerging threats, said at a hearing.

The GAO also said it found that between Oct. 1, 1999, and March 31 this year, the Pentagon sold more than 600 pieces of laboratory equipment and more than a quarter million protective suits. The items ended up in the Middle East, the Philippines and Canada, it said.

After earlier hearings on biological and chemical weapons tools, the Pentagon had said defective and surplus protective suits would no longer be available for public sale.

But the GAO said it was able to buy hundreds of older Battle Dress Overgarments, some from defective lots the department had been trying to get out of circulation for several years.

Almost 5,000 defective suits may have been issued to state and local law enforcement agencies, it said.

"Vague recall notices by the Defense Logistics Agency mean some first responders may still be relying on protective gear that won't work," Shays said.

While it cited lax Pentagon controls, the report also noted the lab equipment is available from other sources such as medical and laboratory suppliers.

At the House subcommittee hearing, Frederick Baillie, of the Defense Logistics Agency that handles the Pentagon's surplus property, said steps were under way to tighten controls and notify agencies of potential defective gear.

He said the agency would also study what must be done to keep surplus Pentagon goods from potential terrorists. *Reuters*

Al-Ghozi companion captured

PAGADIAN CITY—One of two local Muslim militants who escaped from the Camp Crame police headquarters in July with Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah bomb expert Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi was captured Wednesday, a military official said.

Col. Roland Rodriguez said Omar Lasal Opik, a member of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim kidnap gang, was captured in Dumalinao town in Zamboanga del Sur by a special task force.

The other militant, Abdulmukim Edris, was slain by troops in August.

The escape by Al-Ghozi, who was serving a 17-year jail term for possession of explosives, embarrassed President Macapagal-Arroyo since it came on the same day Australian Prime Minister John Howard visited Manila to boost anti-terror cooperation.

The escape also set back the regional effort to combat terrorism as Al-Ghozi was one of the most senior JI militants in captivity. *AFP*

ERRATUM

IN the Oct. 7 banner headline of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ermin Garcia Jr. was wrongly identified as the chief of staff of Sen. Panfilo Lacson. Garcia is actually a media affairs consultant of Lacson. Lacson's chief of staff is lawyer Aries Gana. The eighth paragraph of the story "Where Is Lacson?" should have read: He is probably missing to (not two as printed) people like (National Bureau of Investigation chief Reynaldo) Wycoco and (Police Director Eduardo) Matillano who are after him, Garcia said.

UK minister on 3-day visit to RP

THE UK Parliamentary undersecretary for Constitutional Affairs is expected to arrive in Manila today for a three-day visit.

David Lammy, a member of the British Parliament, will call on Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong and officials of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

He will also meet members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) to discuss cooperation between the legal practitioners of the two countries.

Lammy will also meet officers and members of the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Amnesty International Philippines and the Free Legal Assistance Group (Flag).

As Parliamentary undersecretary for the Department of Constitutional Affairs, Lammy is responsible for: legal aid, the legal services commission and community legal service, civil justice policy, civil law development, domestic and international legal services, the legal services ombudsman, law commission, land law, immigration and asylum policy, human rights, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man and the land registry.

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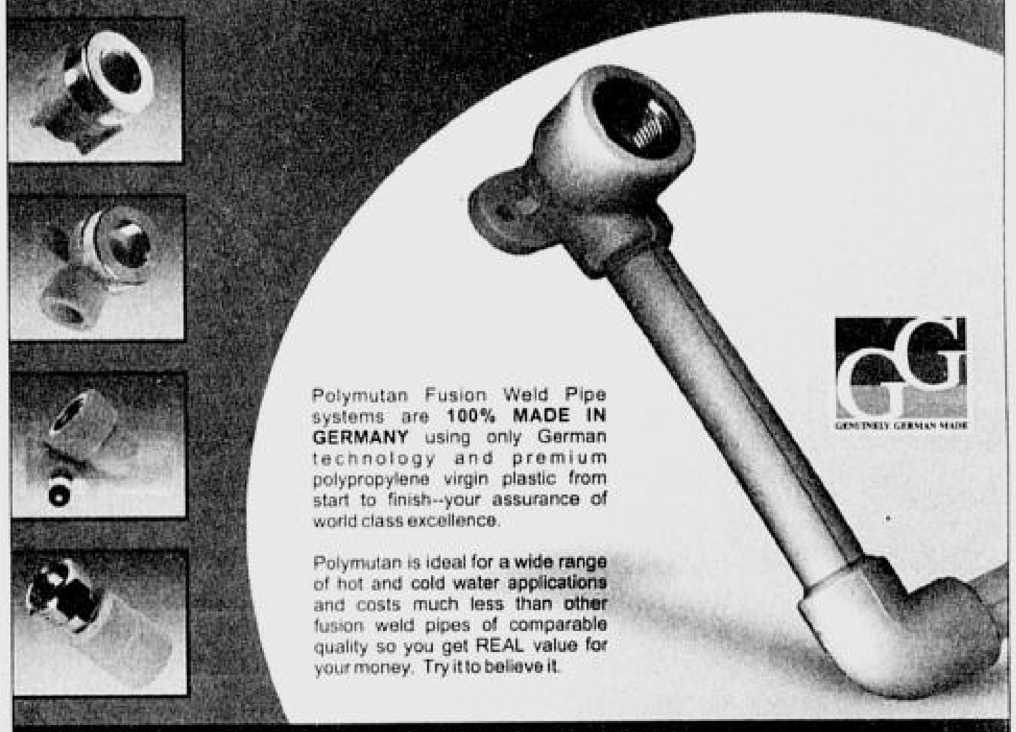

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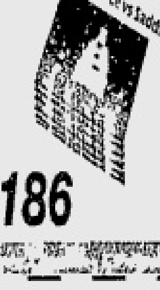

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* *ASEAN or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations consists of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

All set for first taikonaut in space

BEIJING—The shape of China's first manned space shot came into sharper focus Wednesday with reports that a single-orbit mission will blast off next week.

The planned launch is to be shown live on television so the government can trumpet its anticipated accomplishment to its citizens and the world.

One media report indicated that a single "taikonaut"—a term based on the Chinese word for space—would fly. Another suggested as many as three might take part.

Fourteen finalists hoping to be the first Chinese in space converged upon a hotel in a northwestern town as the mission neared, a newspaper said.

In Indonesia, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said the Shenzhou 5 craft would take off with a human crew "soon, very soon."

If the launch is completed successfully, China would join the United States and the former Soviet Union—now Russia—as the only countries that have sent manned missions into space.

The Oct. 15 date of the inaugural launch—a 90-minute flight that will orbit the planet once—was reported Wednesday by Sina.com, a major mainland website. It quoted Phoenix TV, a Hong Kong broadcaster with close ties to the Beijing leadership—and with a former Chinese military officer at its helm.

The flight would follow a decade of preparations and would be held a day after the end of the Chinese Communist Party's plenum, a major political meeting. That schedule—coupled with the National Day holiday last week—allows China's leaders to link the party to the patriotic fervor surrounding the space program.

"China's space technology has been created by China itself. We may have started later than Russia and the United States, but it's amazing how fast we've been able to do this," Sina.com quoted Xie Guangxuan, director of the government's China Rocket Design Department, as saying.

The Shenzhou capsule is based on Russia's Soyuz vessel, with extensive modifications. China bought Russian space suits and a life support system to study, though officials stress that everything sent up will be made in China.

Sina.com said Xie was "full of confidence" about the launch and said the beginning of the mission would be carried live by China Central Television, the government broadcaster that reaches nearly a billion Chinese. *AP*

PAKISTAN'S medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile takes off during its launch at an undisclosed location. REUTERS

2 Americans win Nobel in chemistry

STOCKHOLM, Sweden—Americans Peter Agre and Roderick MacKinnon won the Nobel Prize in chemistry for their research on how key materials enter or leave the cells in the body.

The pair received the award for their discoveries concerning tiny pores called "channels" on the surface of cells, the Royal Swedish Academy said Wednesday.

Agre, 54, is part of the staff at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland, and MacKinnon, 47, is part of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute of The Rockefeller University in New York.

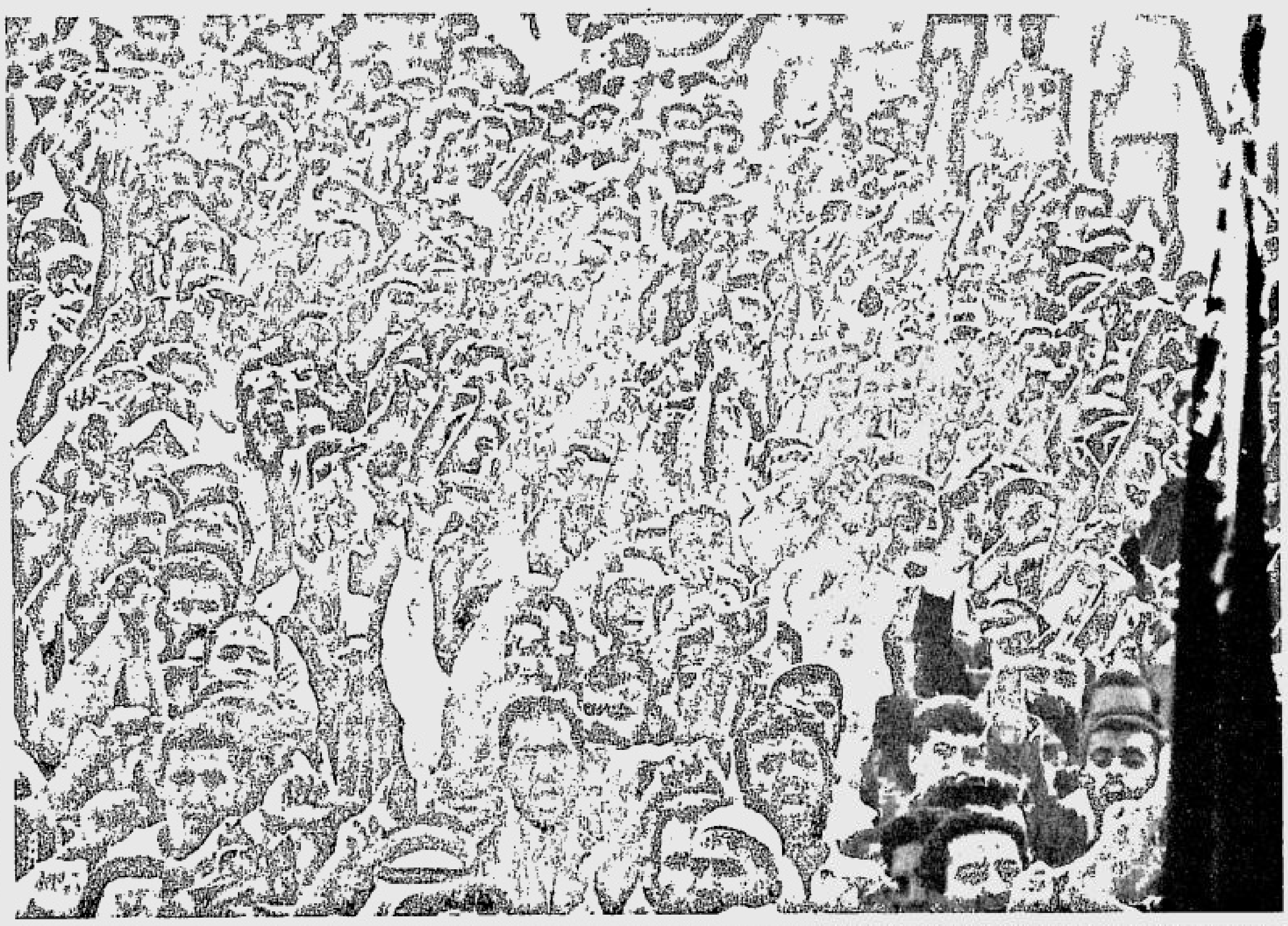
Agre was cited for his work in 1988 for isolating a membrane protein that, a year or so later, he realized must be the long-sought-after water channel.

"These are discoveries that are of fundamental importance for the understanding of life processes, not just among humans and higher organisms, but also for bacteria and plants," said Bengt Norden, chair of the Nobel committee for chemistry.

The discovery opened the door to a whole series of biochemical, physiological and genetic studies of water channels in bacteria, plants and mammals. Today, researchers can follow in detail a water molecule on its way through the cell membrane and understand why only water, not other small molecules or ions, can pass, the academy said.

MacKinnon was honored for his work for studying the other type of membrane channel, or ion channel.

He surprised the whole research community when in 1998 he was able to determine the spatial structure of a potassium channel. Thanks to this contribution we can now "see" ions flowing through channels that can be opened and closed by different cellular signals. *AP*



SHIITE Muslim Iraqis raise their fists as they chant anti-US slogans during a protest in Baghdad on Oct. 8 against the arrest of two clerics by US troops. AFP

Shiites march to demand release of clerics

BAGHDAD—About 2,000 Shiite Muslims marched through Baghdad streets Wednesday to demand the release of a cleric detained by coalition forces.

Moayed al-Khazraji was arrested on Monday as he lead a 12-man delegation to negotiate with the Americans in the municipal council building. A large crowd of his supporters confronted American troops late Tuesday outside his mosque, but the confrontation ended peacefully after US troops withdrew.

US officials held talks with a group of clerics at the mosque on Wednesday but failed to resolve the standoff. Following the talks, protesters began marching toward the center of the city, chanting Islamic slogans, as US helicopters hovered overhead.

Brig. Gen. Martin Dempsey, commander of the 1st Armored Division, said Al-Khazraji was being held "on charges of criminal and anti-coalition activities" but would not elaborate. Shiites at the mosque said the cleric had been wrongly accused of keeping weapons in the mosque.

Al-Khazraji is said to be close to Muqtada al-Sadr, a young radical Shiite cleric who is strongly critical of the US military occupation. However, Al-Sadr's influence within Iraq's Shiite majority is believed to be less than that of older clerics who have spoken out against violence and have been generally more cooperative with American authorities.

Still, a violent confrontation with Shiites, who form about 60 percent of Iraq's 25 million people, could have serious repercussions for the US-led occupation. Most of the attacks against US troops are believed carried out by Sunni Muslims, who formed the base of support for Saddam Hussein's regime. *AP*

Pakistan tests nuke missile

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan on Wednesday test fired a medium-range, nuclear-capable missile, the second such test in less than a week, the army said.

The Army said it successfully fired off the Hatf-4 missile, also known as the Shaheen 1, in the early morning hours. The missile has a range of 700 km, meaning it can hit most major targets in rival India.

"The test is part of the ongoing series of tests of Pakistan's indigenous missile systems," the Army said in a statement, adding that: "In a spirit of confidence building, Pakistan had given prior notification of the tests to its neighbors."

In New Delhi, the Indian defense ministry spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment. But Pakistani Army spokesperson Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan said the test launch should not effect Indian-Pakistani relations.

"These tests are on going. This will have no impact on the situation in the region," he said.

The test was the second in less than a week. Pakistan said after the first launch on Friday of the short-range Hatf-2 Ghaznavi that it was in the middle of a series of such tests. Sultan said India had been told of each of the launches beforehand.

The test was the first in Pakistan since March, but Islamabad insists the missile tests have nothing to do with simmering tensions with India.

The two countries appeared headed for peace talks a few short months ago, and the silos were silent while they resumed diplomatic ties and restored bus links.

On April 18, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee raised hopes in the region with a surprise call for peace with Pakistan, saying he was extending a "hand of friendship" to his bitter rival. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Israel mobilizes more troops

JERUSALEM—Israel was set to mobilize thousands of troops on Wednesday to be deployed to the West Bank and Gaza after a wave of alerts that Palestinian militants were planning new attacks, military sources and reports said. The prospect of deployments in the Palestinian territories comes at a time when Israeli troops are already on a heightened state of readiness on the northern border with Lebanon following Monday's deadly shooting of a soldier. *AFP*

UN alarmed by problems of adolescents

LONDON—Early marriage, unwanted pregnancy and HIV/AIDS among the world's adolescents are a threat to development and must be combated as part of the war on poverty, the United Nations said Wednesday. A fifth of the world's population—1.2 billion people—is between 10 and 19, more than ever before, the United Nations says. Half are poor and a quarter live in extreme poverty on less than a dollar a day. "How well we prepare them to face adult challenges in a fast-changing world will shape humanity's common future," the United Nations Population Fund said on its website in a prelude to Wednesday's publication in London of its annual State of the World's Population report. *Reuters*

Ruling on cloning sought

UNITED NATIONS—A group of scientists, doctors and legal experts asked the United Nations on Wednesday to seek an advisory opinion from the World Court declaring human cloning to be a "crime against humanity." "The World Court is the ultimate authority on international law, and an opinion from the court would bring a very strong legal and moral force to bear against the would-be cloners," said attorney Bernard Siegel of Coral Gables, Florida, who organized the initiative. *Reuters*

Ex-dictator turns to God

GUATEMALA CITY—Efrain Rios Montt, a former iron-fisted dictator and evangelical minister who is running for president, said in an Associated Press interview that he would look to God to solve his country's problems, and he dismissed charges his past administration committed acts of genocide. The 78-year-old brigadier general, who has made campaign stops with a former guerrilla commander by his side, called on Guatemalans to move beyond their bloody past and said those who accuse him are only attacking him because his government won the country's civil war. *AP*

Guerrillas kill 2 Colombian mayors

BOGOTA, Colombia—Leftist guerrillas killed two mayors after they met with rebels in a hideout, authorities said. Meanwhile, a new report criticized the army's handling of a botched hostage rescue two years ago that left a Cabinet member dead. Mayors Orlando Hoyos and Jaime Zambrano were killed Monday after holding talks with Colombia's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, in the southeastern [illegible] Cauca region. *AP*

Burundi gov't, rebels sign peace accord

PRETORIA—Burundi's main rebel group signed a new peace accord with the government on Wednesday aimed at ending a decade of civil war that has killed 300,000 people in the central African country.

Another powerful rebel group, the Forces for National Liberation (FNL), however quickly rejected the peace deal, but it was not immediately clear if that could derail the accord.

Pierre Nkurunziza's Forces for the Defense of Democracy (FDD) signed the deal on their entry into government and the Armed Forces in the early hours after three days of gruelling negotiations in the South African capital Pretoria.

After the signing, both sides agreed to issue immediate orders to halt hostilities, a move greeted with applause from the assembled delegations and mediators.

But an FNL spokesperson in Burundi poured scorn on the accord.

"This is not the first agreement and Burundi negotiators are used to lying to each other," FNL spokesperson Pasteur Habimana told Reuters in Burundi's capital, Bujumbura.

"We cannot negotiate with people who do not like to tell the truth. This agreement is not a new one. They signed the first agreement but this was never achieved."

Burundi's war has pitted rebels from the ethnic Hutu majority against a politically powerful Tutsi minority.

"Agreement has been reached about a whole number of outstanding matters to do with political issues and defense and security issues related to bringing about peace," South African President Thabo Mbeki said at a special signing ceremony.

South Africa has played a key role in mediating an end to the conflict. Former President Nelson Mandela, who was for a time the main mediator in the conflict, had phoned up during Tuesday evening to check on progress, Mbeki said.

"I told him that negotiations had been concluded ... He's a very happy man," Mbeki said, adding that the iconic Mandela had asked to meet the delegates before their return to Burundi.

Wednesday's deal addressed the mechanics of bringing the FDD into a power-sharing government and the Armed Forces, as agreed in principle last December under a doomed ceasefire. *Reuters*

Kids' selective eating an evolutionary trait

LONDON—The refusal by children to eat new foods may not be due to fussiness but an evolutionary trait designed to protect themselves from harm, scientists said on Wednesday.

Babies will put almost anything in their mouths. But as children get older, they become more selective about what they eat, particularly if they have not tried it before.

Green vegetables and meat can be particularly troublesome.

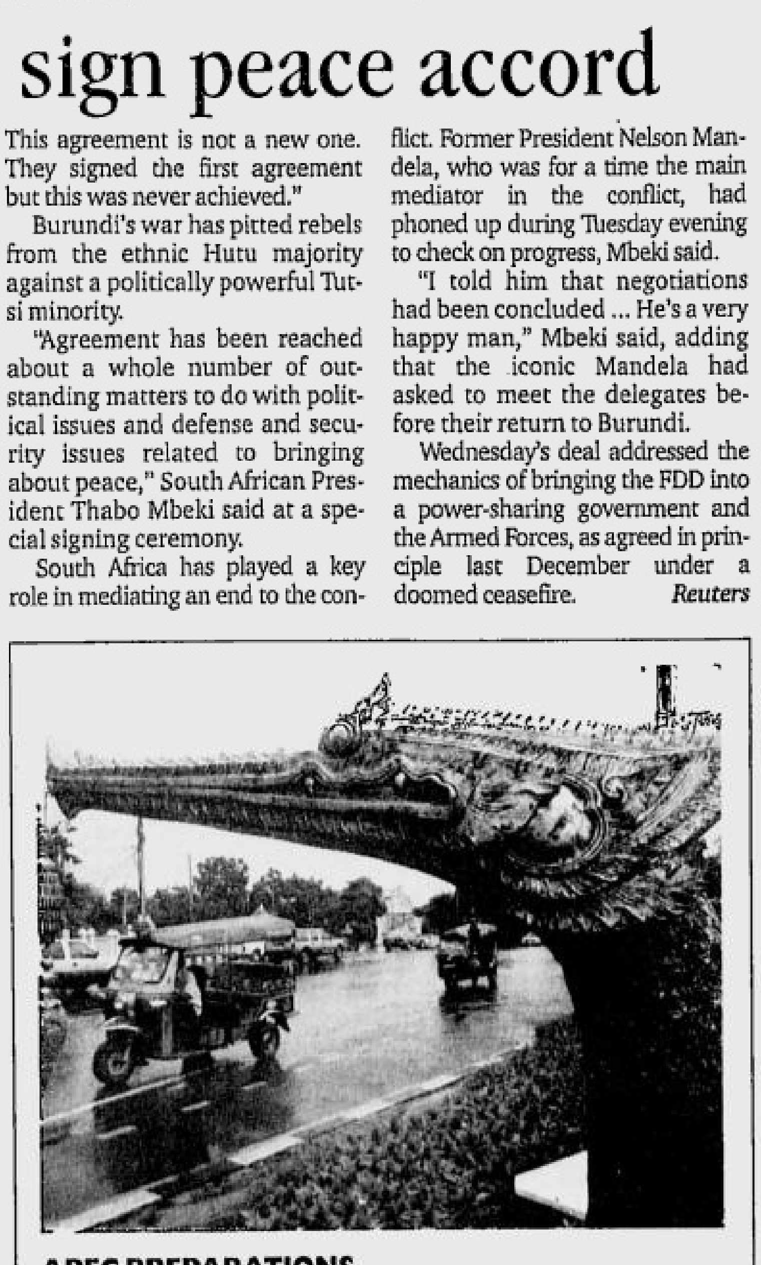
But scientists at the charity Cancer Research UK said thousands of years ago toxins in plants could have harmed children, and meat carried a high risk of food poisoning.

"So it makes sense that humans may have evolved to be highly suspicious of certain food types as youngsters," said Lucy Cooke, the lead researcher who reported the findings in the journal Appetite.

She and her colleagues questioned 564 mothers of young children about their eating habits. The fussiest children liked potatoes, cereal and cakes but avoided vegetables, fruit and meat.

The researchers believe the behavior develops when children become more independent as a protective mechanism.

"The problem is that strategies which were sensible for children to adopt thousands of years ago are not such a good idea now, and may be contributing to the low levels of vegetable and fruit consumption in the British population generally," Cooke added in a statement. *Reuters*



APEC PREPARATIONS

Statues mushroom in Bangkok in preparation for the Apec 2003 summit on Oct. 8. Bangkok is spending more than 544 million baht ($13.78 million) to decorate main roads. AFP

From Russia to Austria, world marvels at Arnie's victory

GRAZ, Austria—From Moscow to Arnold Schwarzenegger's boyhood home in Austria, the world marveled Wednesday at a uniquely American political triumph with more suspense than a Hollywood script.

After partying the night away, dignitaries and admirers in Schwarzenegger's home region celebrated his victory in the race to become governor of California by claiming him anew as one of their own.

In a local bar, dozens mingled over a breakfast of scrambled eggs and coffee, breaking into cheers and applause when Schwarzenegger's victory speech—dubbed into German—was broadcast live on big-screen TVs.

"He's one of us," Waltraud Klasnic, the governor of Schwarzenegger's home province of Styria, told reporters. "This is going to push us a little bit more into the foreground on the international stage."

In France, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy said he had mixed feelings about Schwarzenegger's win, but acknowledged it was a significant achievement.

"Someone who's a foreigner in his country, who has an unpronounceable name and can become governor of the biggest American state—that's not nothing," Sarkozy told RTL radio.

Schwarzenegger has "a large task ahead of him, and we are confident that he will succeed in bringing California out of the crisis," Austrian Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel said in a congratulatory message.

"His success, at first in sport, then professional and now political, shows America and the world what good workers Austrians are globally," Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner said.

Schwarzenegger's victory led the main morning news programs in Russia, where the news broke as Muscovites were waking up and heading for work.

NTV television reported that "the third generation Terminator will lead the state," where it said voters believed in his promises to restore order after blaming outgoing Gov. Gray Davis for economic problems.

"Many still associate 'Iron Arnie' with a hero who saves the world from the bad guys," NTV reported from the United States.

Erik Aasard, head of the Swedish Institute for North American Studies at the University of Uppsala, said the outcome could be explained only by voter dissatisfaction with the economy.

"The only way to explain this is not so much that Schwarzenegger is an attractive candidate—which he certainly is—but that the voters are enormously dissatisfied with the California administration," Aasard said.

Back in Austria, Frank Bogen, a 73-year-old former diplomat, described how he spent the night listening to television updates on the race, and said many here feel a strong emotional connection to Schwarzenegger, who became a US citizen in 1984.

"He has real friends here," Bogen said. "Even though he's a full-fledged American, he has never denied where he came from."

The breakfast celebration took place in downtown Graz—a historic city in southern Austria just a few kilometers from Schwarzenegger's boyhood home, Thal.

The night before, hundreds of partygoers packed into the bar to cheer Schwarzenegger.

Chanting "Go, Arnie, Go!" celebrants shouted, sipping "Governator" and red, white and blue "Stars-and-Stripes" cocktails in the bar, which was decorated with "Join Arnold" campaign flyers and red, white and blue balloons.

One partygoer, Lisa Anderwald, a 21-year-old makeup artist whose family lives in Schwarzenegger's former home, came to show her support for the man who got her a job working on special effects during the filming of "Terminator 3." *AP*

Arnold is California's 'Gover-nator'

From page A1

pledged to work for a smooth transition. "I'm calling on everyone . . . to put the chaos and division of the recall behind us and do what's right for this great state of California."

Schwarzenegger appeared before a delirious crowd at his campaign headquarters.

"Everything I have is because of California," he said in claiming victory. "I came here with absolutely nothing, and California has given me absolutely everything. And today, California has given me the greatest gift of all, you have given me your trust by voting for me."

To the victor goes a spoiled American paradise—a state mired in economic troubles, awash with deficits, now governed by a Republican chief executive with no political experience and a Democratic legislature.

Partial returns early Wednesday showed the recall favored by 3,944,412 voters or 53.9 percent, and opposed by 3,368,141 voters or 46.1 percent.

Negative publicity

Among the replacement candidates, Schwarzenegger was ahead with 3,370,476 votes, or 47.9 percent of the vote; Democratic Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante had 2,277,834 votes, or 32.4 percent; Republican state Sen. Tom McClintock had 930,684 votes, or 13.2 percent; and Green Party candidate Peter Camejo had 198,816 votes, or 2.8 percent.

Schwarzenegger prevailed despite a flurry of negative publicity in the campaign's final days, surviving allegations that he had groped women and accusations that as a young man he expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler.

The 56-year-old Austrian immigrant—husband of television journalist and Kennedy relative Maria Shriver—finds himself in charge of the nation's most populated state with an economy surpassed by only five countries. He takes office as soon as the election results are certified, no later than Nov. 15, and will serve out the final three years of Davis' term.

Voters faced two questions—whether to recall Davis, and who among the other candidates should replace him if he was removed. They chose to remove the incumbent and put Schwarzenegger in his place.

Exit poll

Exit polling explained why: Many Hispanics and union members—two key groups in Davis' past electoral successes—deserted him as he suffered extraordinarily low job approval ratings amid widespread voter discontent about the state's economy, according to voter surveys conducted for The Associated Press and other news organizations by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

California's Secretary of State Kevin Shelley estimated voter turnout between 65 and 70 percent and called it one of the smoothest statewide elections in 20 years. The turnout would be the highest percentage to vote in a California gubernatorial election since 1982.

As part of the election, voters also rejected Proposition 54, a contentious initiative that would have banned state and local governments from tracking race in everything from preschools to police work. They also rejected another proposition dedicating money to public works projects.

Reelected last year with less than 50 percent of the vote, Davis fell victim to a groundswell of discontent in a state that has struggled with its perilous financial condition.

As colorless as his name, Davis was also known as a canny politician. He rose through the political ranks as a state assemblyman, controller and lieutenant governor before becoming governor in 1999.

Inexperience

By contrast, Schwarzenegger's political inexperience seemed a virtue to many voters.

The campaign included a parade of bit players among the 135 candidates, including Hustler publisher Larry Flynt, former child actor Gary Coleman, a publicity-hungry porn actress who wanted to tax breast implants and an artist who dressed in all blue and described his candidacy as the ultimate piece of performance art.

The cast of characters and outsized ballot gave the campaign a carnival-like atmosphere.

Though Schwarzenegger held a commanding lead going into the final week, his campaign was shaken by allegations published in the Los Angeles Times days before the election from six women who said he groped them or made unwanted sexual advances. By election day, a total of 16 women had come forward.

Schwarzenegger also was confronted with reports that he had praised Hitler as a young man—accusations he disputed.

Davis' plight reverberated across America, to the 18 other states that have initiative, referendum or recall provisions. If California is pioneer, perpetual campaigns could become common.

The last governor to be recalled in the United States was North Dakota's Lynn Frazier in 1921. The cost of the election to California taxpayers was estimated at $67 million.

The recall movement was launched in February by grass-roots activists angered over the state's $38 billion budget deficit and the prospect of rising taxes. Democrats portrayed the recall as part of a nationwide Republican power grab.

Tracked by national and international media, Schwarzenegger found frenzied crowds wherever he went; flashing an iridescent smile, he tossed campaign T-shirts into adoring throngs. He raised at least $21.5 million for the race, some $10 million of which came from his own pocket—a sum that represented about a third of his salary for the movie "Terminator 3." *AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 9, 2003
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Mal 3:13-20
Gospel:	Lk 11:5-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to his house in the middle of the night and says: 'Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine who is traveling has just arrived and I have nothing to offer him.' Maybe your friend will answer from inside: 'Don't bother me now; the door is locked and my children and I are in bed, so I can't get up and give you anything.' But I tell you, even though he will not get up and attend to you because you are a friend, yet he will get up because you are a bother to him, and he will give you all you need.

"And so I say to you, 'Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For the one who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to him who knocks the door will be opened.

"If your child asks for a fish, will you give a snake instead? And if your child asks for an egg, will you give a scorpion? Even you evil people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more then will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those who ask him!"

Commentary

"If you ... know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more then will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those who ask him!" A good spiritual director once told me that when praying, one should ask these three questions: First, what am I praying for? Is it for good fortune? Is it for good health? Is it for the gift of the Holy Spirit? Is it the best petition for me here and now? Second, how do I pray? Do I pray with faith or with a half-hearted desire? Do I pray with perseverance or with boredom? Third, who am I who prays? Am I close to God or far from God? Do I remember him only in times of difficulties or at all times? Is God the center of my life or is he just in the periphery of my concerns? Answer truthfully these questions and you will know why your prayers are not answered.

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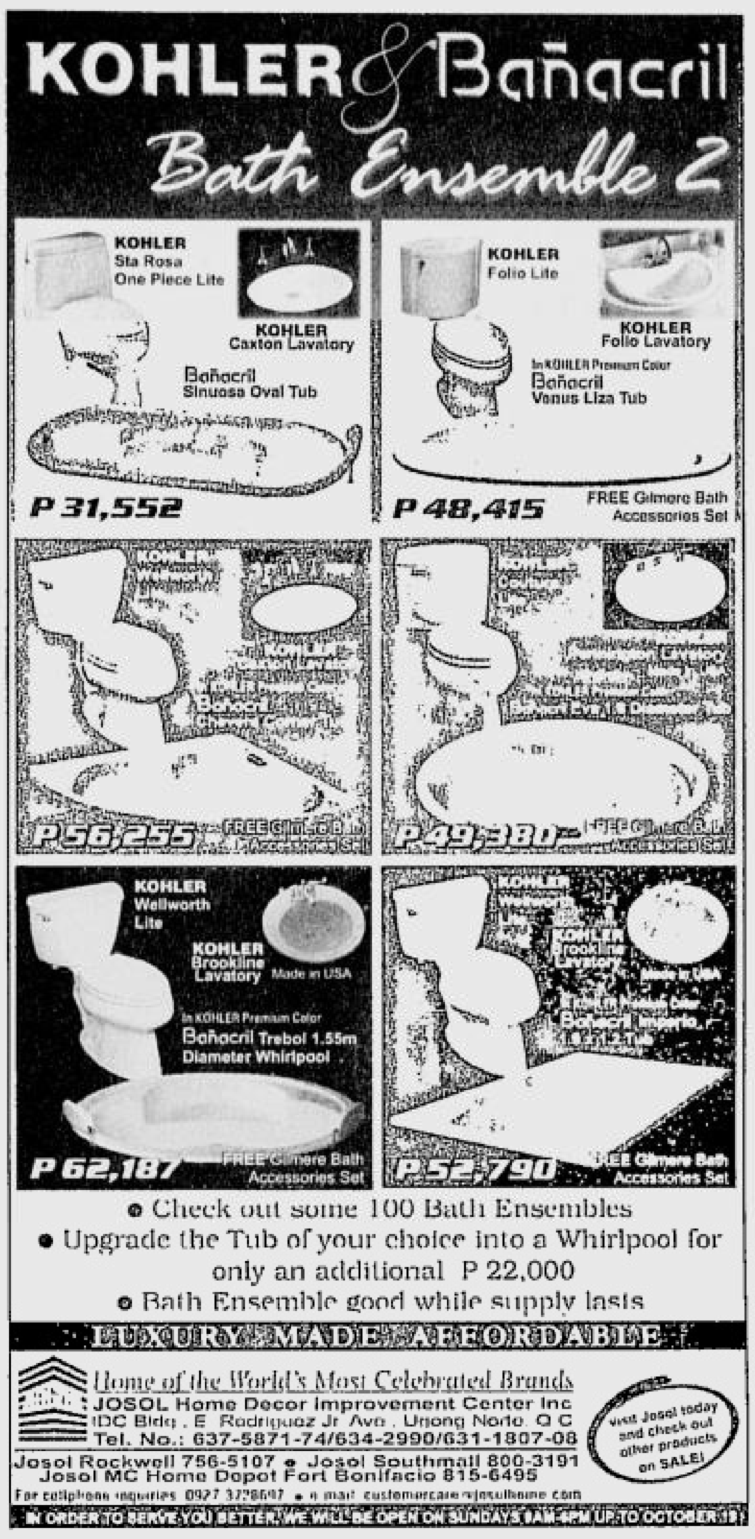
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK ONE—AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—There is treachery when the offender commits any of the crimes against persons employing means, methods or forms in the execution thereof, which tend directly and specially to insure its execution, without risk to himself arising from defense which the offended party might make. Treachery cannot be presumed, it must be proved by clear and convincing evidence or as conclusively as the killing itself. The witness testified that accused-appellant and the victim were "grappling with each other" and that prior to the stabbing, they were shouting at each other. In this scenario, it cannot be said that the victim was unprepared to put up a defense, such as hitting accused-appellant, or that the latter's assault was sudden. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez People v. Abrazaldo, G.R. No. 124392, February 7, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA



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Source: *New England Journal of Medicine*

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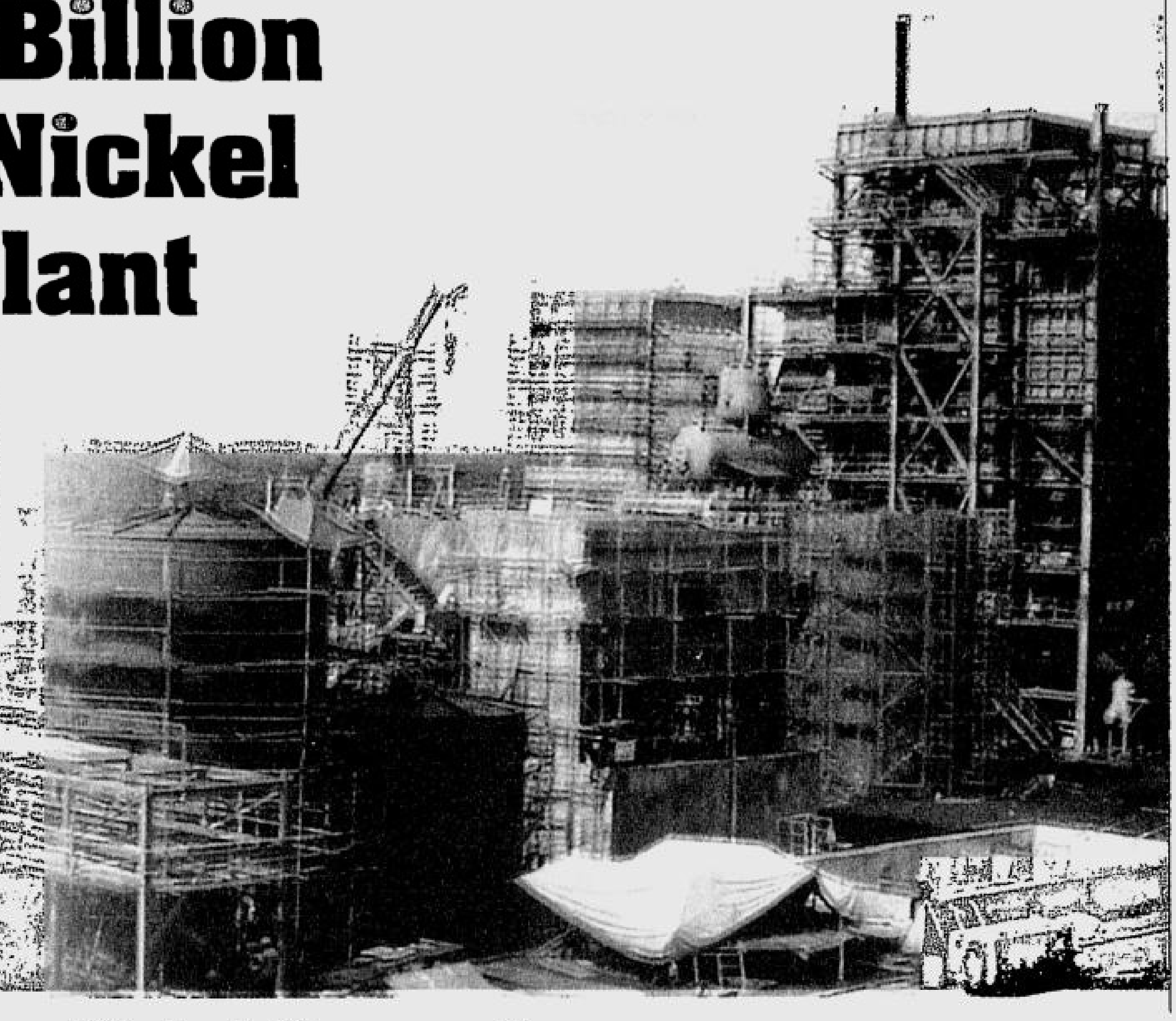

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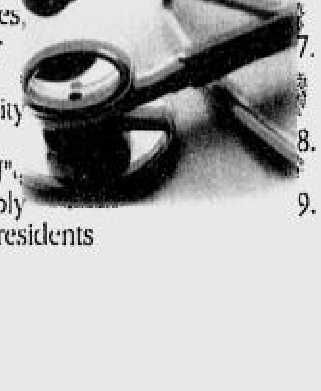
2. Revegetation of disturbed areas and stockpile slopes
3. Tree planting on opened areas outside mining sites
4. Construction of silt containment ponds and silt collector sumps
5. Water spraying along active mine roads
6. Installation of accordion chutes, collector boxes, wind breaker, and other dust-confining devices
7. Covering of selected stockpiles

Community Development Education & Sports Program

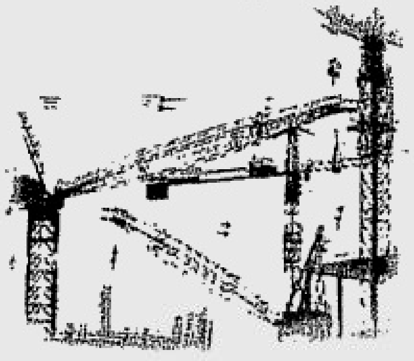
1. Kindergarten, Elementary and Secondary Education through RTN School (LSVMS)
2. Scholarship Grants for deserving Elementary, High School and College students under RTN's Scholarship Program
3. Non-Formal Education Program for members of cultural communities
4. Skills Development Training Program
5. Inter-Community Sports Program

Health & Social Services

1. Medical & Dental services through RTN Hospital
2. Medical Mission/Hospitalization Assistance
3. Incentive Allowance for Parish Priest
4. Military Assistance Program
5. Free Power Supply to Public Schools, Barangay Hall, Chapels, etc.
6. Transport services for community, i.e. student bus, athletic meets, patients-referrals, religious activities, funerals & other social activities
7. Gift-giving activity "Pamaskong Handog ng RTN".
8. Free Water supply to neighboring residents



Infrastructure Projects



1. 20-bed Capacity Hospital
2. School (kindergarten, Elementary and Secondary)
3. Roman Catholic Church
4. Gymnasium and other recreational facilities (basketball courts, lawn tennis courts, swimming pool, billiard hall, soccer field, volleyball court, softball and baseball field, 3-hole golf links, etc.)
5. Cooperative Stores
6. Moslem Mosque
7. Military Barracks/Quarters
8. Dry & Wet Market
9. Rio Tuba Barangay Hall
10. Ibelnan Mountain Resort

Other Community Development Projects

1. School sites improvement for public schools of Barangay Rio Tuba, Taratak, Sumbiling, Ocayan and Sandoval
2. Construction of basketball court of Barangay Sandoval
3. Construction of stage for Ocayan Primary School
4. Construction and maintenance of some 51 kilometers farm to market pilot roads within the community and nearby Barangay.
5. Construction of three culvert (spillway type) and one conventional culvert along the provincial road
6. Repair of four bridges along the provincial road
7. Repair of one building and construction of Industrial Arts Building of Rio Tuba South Elementary School
8. Construction of communal latrine for native Palawanos of Sitio Buhoy
9. Delivery of free gravel and sand for chapels, mosque and barangay hall construction

Development Projects/ Livelihood Programs for Indigenous Peoples (IPS)

1. Establishment of non-formal Education Program (construction of school building and hiring of teacher for program implementation).
2. Installation of two (2) deep well water supply facilities.
3. Construction of Tribal Hall and community latrine.
4. Construction and maintenance of main access road. Provision of free transportation during Sundays for marketing activities.
5. Provision of appropriate livelihood opportunities such as fish pond construction for tilapia culture, backyard gardening and hog dispersal program.
6. Free medical consultation, check-up and hospitalization.
7. Employment for manual labor or related jobs.

Left to rigt:
Takanori Fujimura
President-Coral Bay Nickel Corp.
Koichi Fukushima
President-Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.
President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Takuro Mochihara
Executive Officer-Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., Ltd.
Mar Roxas
Secretary-Department of Trade and Industry

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ADVT.

RP, Malaysia launch rescue for hostages

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BALI (via PLDT)—Philippine authorities are now closely working with their Malaysian counterparts to rescue six hostages abducted Sunday from a Malaysian resort in Sabah, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"Prime Minister Mahathir (Mohamad) and I have agreed to close ranks in going after the kidnappers," Ms Macapagal said in a statement yesterday. Both leaders are attending a Southeast Asian summit in Bali, Indonesia.

She said top Philippine naval officials are now coordinating with Sabah authorities for "joint search" operations while the military was also ordered to "scour places in the South" where the abductors could seek refuge.

Two Philippine Navy ships with a crew of 80 men that earlier participated in the Maritime Border Patrol Exercise have cordoned off the Tawi-Tawi area, the country's closest island to Sabah.

Late Sunday, 10 men armed with automatic rifles and pistols stormed the riverside Borneo Paradise Eco-Farm Resort using a speedboat and seized six employees of the resort.

Ms Macapagal said one of two Filipinos abducted managed to escape. Four Indonesians and a Malaysian were also taken from the resort in Sabah.

More than 1,000 police and security forces members scoured hundreds of beaches and small islands in the northeast corner of Sabah state yesterday, the third day of a massive search.

Police found a boat the kidnappers may have used in the raid in a river about 30 kilometers from the resort, but no news of other clues has been released.

In Zamboanga City, Commodore George Uy, commander of the Naval Forces Western Mindanao, has identified the two Filipino hostages.

"One of them was a (Visayan) identified as Nobelito, the other one was a Badjao known to the people there as Sarah," Uy told the INQUIRER. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, AP and AFP*

South Koreans warned on travel to South

SEOUL, South Korea—South Korea on Tuesday advised its citizens not to travel to some provinces in Mindanao and Palawan island where Muslim and Marxist guerrillas are active, citing terrorist and kidnapping threats.

In an advisory, the Foreign Ministry asked its citizens not to travel to the provinces of Sulu, Basilan, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga-Sibuguey, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and South Cotabato.

The Abu Sayyaf, a small Muslim extremist group loosely linked to the al-Qaida terror network and blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist group, has a presence in the island provinces of Sulu, Basilan and the Zamboanga peninsula. It is notorious for bombings, kidnappings and beheadings and have attacked many foreigners.

The Foreign Ministry advisory also cautioned Koreans to refrain from traveling to Palawan, a southwestern resort island outside Mindanao where Abu Sayyaf guerrillas kidnapped three Americans and 17 Filipino tourists two years ago.

A number of other countries have issued similar warnings in the past, setting off protests from Philippine government officials who argued that some of the travel advisories tended to portray the whole country as dangerous, hurting tourism and investment.

The Philippines is a popular tourist destination for South Koreans, with 300,000 tourists visiting the country last year. AP

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   - Westin Philippine Plaza (CCP Complex)
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   - Waterfront Cebu City (Cebu City)
   - Hotel del Rio** (Iloilo City)
   - The Marco Polo (Davao)
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Jolt to Asean

EDITORIAL

THE 10 MEMBERS of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), stirred up from their accustomed economic lethargy last Tuesday when they decided at their summit in Bali to establish an Asean economic community.

The catalysts of this watershed agreement were China, Asia's fastest-growing economy, and the collapse of the world trade talks in Cancun, which has given impetus to bilateral trade agreements. Asean, deriving lessons from the European common market, agreed to set up a common market, using as mechanism the Asean plan for a free trade zone by 2020.

Two of Asean's most vibrant economies—Singapore and Thailand—acted as the prodders for the formation of an economic community and a single trading bloc. The leaders of these two countries expressed impatience over the lethargic pace of the dismantling of tariffs envisaged in the Asean plan.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra of Thailand and Prime Minister Goh Chok Thong underlined the urgency of regional economic integration in the face of declining investment in Southeast Asia and increasing competition from China.

"Asean should get our act together" Goh said, in the wake of the failure of the global trade talks at Cancun and in the face of growing competition from bilateral free trade agreements, being pursued by big economic powers. Thaksin echoed Goh's message. "This is the time for action," he said, "this is the time to adapt to change, this is the time to realize regional economic integration, adding that waiting for the timetable for a tariff-free zone by 2020 might be too late.

Thaksin said the target date for completion of regional integration in 2020 was "a bit too long." The Bali agreement envisaged the establishment of "a single production base that would enable manufacturing operations to be linked seamlessly throughout the region."

Goh pointed out that "unpredictable customs clearance, a bewildering array of product standards and excessive red tape" hampered the free movement of goods and services inside Asean, which only a few years earlier was regarded as the promising growth area in Asia, before it was struck by a series of economic disasters, including the 1997 financial crisis and the surge of terrorist attacks, and more recently, the SARS epidemic that severely hit regional tourism and the airline industry.

Asean economic ministers have identified "priority sectors" for dismantling barriers to integration in trade and investment. These sectors include wood-based products, fisheries, electronics, health care, air travel and tourism. The Bali communiqué urged acceleration of removing tariff barriers by 2010 rather than 2020. Thailand sought to bring forward establishment of the single market to 2012 while Singapore wanted an even earlier deadline. But the rest of Asean is not prepared to march to their cadence.

The Asean communiqué pledged to "streamline" decision-making and to strengthen institutions for enforcing the economic integration.

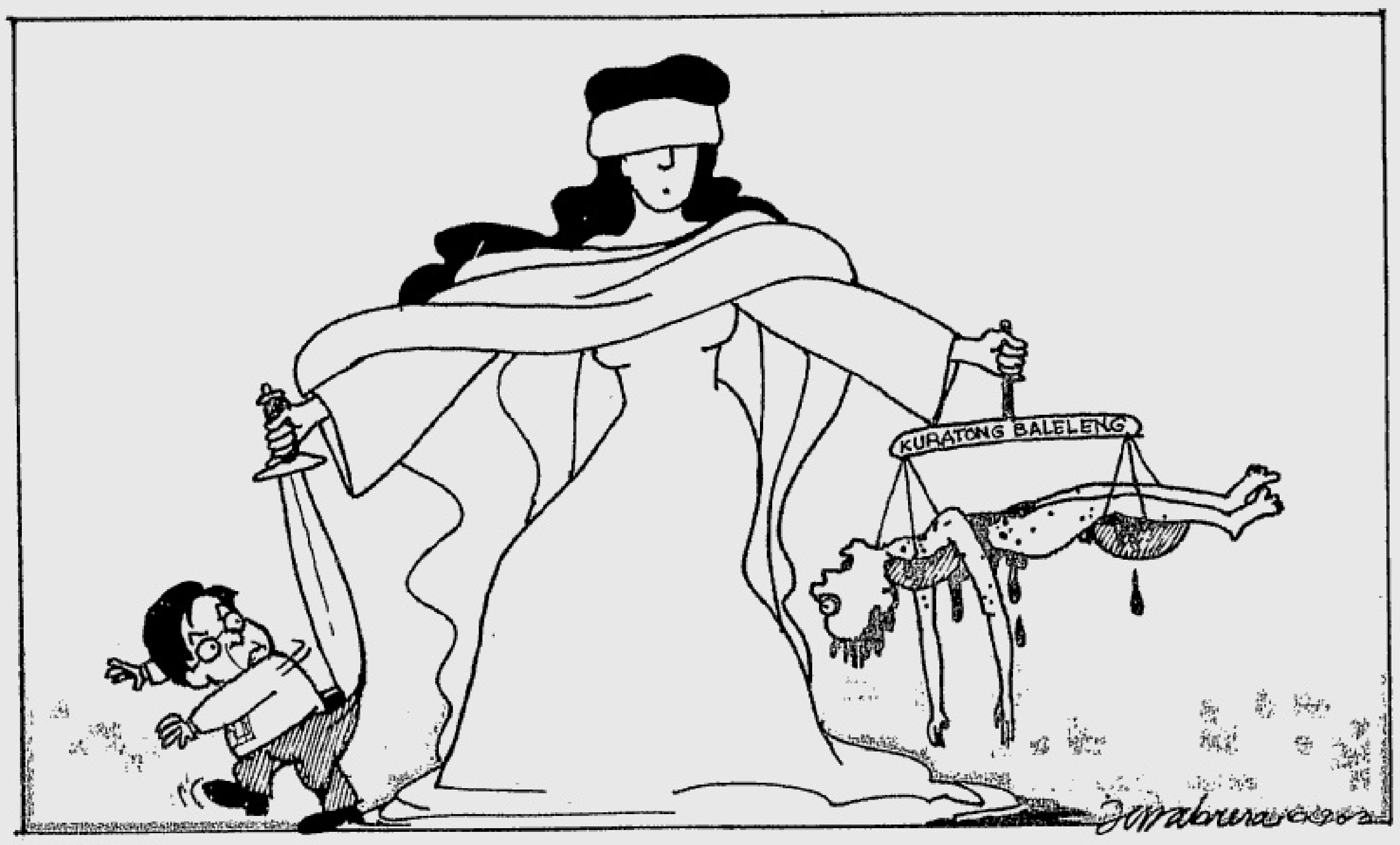
To push their laggard Asean partners further, Singapore and Thailand declared they were prepared to fast track bilateral economic initiatives to speed up regional integration and are moving to liberalize their service markets by opening up the logistics, banking and communications sectors to each other.

Their initiatives, however, could be slowed by a traditionally cumbersome Asean method of reaching decisions—i.e., through consensus. Impeding the pace of integration is a built-in political obstacle embedded in Asean's principle of non-interference with one another's affairs, together with the consensus method.

And since Indonesia, for example, and some of the Asean countries, are not as prepared to open up their economies as the regional economic leaders, the target for the Asean common market by 2020 has to wait for the catch-up by the less dynamic regional economies.

The need to speed up Asean economic integration leading to a competitive single production was emphasized against the backdrop of the sharp decline of investment flows to Asean, the bulk of which has been moving toward China.

The most important single achievement of the Bali summit is that it has given Asean a rude shock to its complacency.



Where have all the school principals gone?

COMMENTARY

Mia Corazon Aureus
Institute on Church and Social Issues

FIRST the teachers. Now it's the principals that we are losing?

Lakas Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri of Bukidnon reported the other Monday the list of things our public school system is lacking: 9.9 million textbooks, 4.12 million chairs, 15,060 classrooms and 11,054 teachers. Now add to that list—20,636 principals.

Currently, the national total of public schools in the country is 42,121 of which 19,313 are elementary schools and 1,323 are high schools. This makes half of the country's public schools principal-less. Like teachers, principals have opted to give up their position in exchange for higher salaries even if it meant starting from the lowest rung of the system again.

When I read this report, the first thing that came to my mind was my mother's friend, Elmo Purpura. Purpura, 36, is leaving for Qatar next weekend to assume the principal's position in the Philippine International School in Qatar (PISQ). He was a Math teacher who also served as the area head for Math at the Don Bosco school in Makati. I thought then, how ironic it was that we were losing a principal and another country is gaining one.

Last March, Purpura chanced upon the job advertisement in the newspaper posted by Eastgate, a recruitment agency. Seeking greener pastures just like everyone else, he took a shot at it and after taking a long exam and two panel interviews, he got the position.

For many, the country has become barren of better job opportunities. So they kissed their loved ones goodbye and crossed the ocean to follow their dreams of a better life. As one in the thousands of teachers and principals leaving the country, Purpura said, "Let's be realistic. As a teacher here, the salary is not enough to give two or three kids better education." What more a permanent home for his family which he plans to achieve within 10 to 20 years?

Time magazine staff writer Joe Mathews traced "the story behind this new kind of 'drain' to a couple in the San Fernando Valley in California and 150 pioneers determined to reciprocate a little-known act of American generosity from a century ago."

Mathews narrated that in 1999, Randy Henry and his Filipino wife, Susan, read that there was a shortage of teachers in Compton, USA. American schools then had teacher exchange programs but then the programs only ran for three years. After which, the teachers had to go back to their native lands. The schools tried direct hiring of foreign teachers but the process proved quite costly. Susan, then, decided to put up a private firm that would supply teachers to these American classrooms.

A teacher's daughter, Susan grew up hearing stories about the 540 American teachers who came to the Philippines in 1901 aboard the US army transport ship Thomas. Known as the Thomasites, they built the foundation of the country's English language educational system. So she thought, who could be better equipped to teach these American kids than Filipino teachers who were trained in the Thomasite tradition?

Susan owned the Universal Agency, which helped employ Filipino nurses in the United States. Together with her husband they designed a new plan to recruit teachers as well. They traveled to Cebu, Susan's hometown, and took the first recruits there. An unexpected number of 1,500 teachers attended the Henrys' seminar. Mathews pointed out, these people were all drawn by economic reasons—many teachers in the United States get a starting salary of $30,000 or more while their more experienced Filipino counterparts are lucky to even earn $5,000 a year.

By 2001, the recruitment program resulted in teachers getting hired in Southern California school districts. About 58 Filipino teachers were hired in Compton, 41 in San Bernardino, and 50 in Inglewood schools.

Mathews quoted Douglas Agatep, Inglewood school's chief human resource officer then, saying, "It's an absolute gold mine." True enough, Mathews said, recruiting agencies also eyed India and China but the Philippines still remained as the chief source of teachers.

Without teachers as well as principals, one can just imagine what our school system will be like in the coming years. Purpura said he pitied our country because we're losing very good teachers. "And who would be replacing these?" he asked. "The new ones who still have to undergo training. It would take them some time to attain the good standing the teachers who left have achieved." This would create a drastic effect on the quality of Philippine education.

Zubiri proposed that in order to fill some of the 20,363 vacant principal posts, the Department of Education's P110.5-billion proposed budget for 2004 has to change 2,500 out of the 10,000 new teaching positions into 1,675 principal positions. However, this would cost the government P3.2 billion in salaries annually, considering a public school principal's basic salary is P13,000 while an ordinary teacher only receives P8,000.

Based on Mathews' report, salary is the driving factor that lures the teachers to other countries. If only salaries here were enough to provide them a decent living, we could have at least given them a reason to stay. But Purpura said when he talked to Director Teresita Inciong of the DepEd, she admitted that the department or the government in general cannot raise big funds to increase salaries.

Purpura said that taxes on remittances, which allow the government to generate more funds, is a possible positive approach to the perennial question: Are these taxes serving their primary purpose? Many Filipinos can only shake their heads and seek greener pastures somewhere else.

A matter of timing

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HAVE no problem with the Supreme Court deciding to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case against Panfilo Lacson. I have no problem with Lacson being arrested and kept in jail without bail, multiple murder, which is what he is charged with, being a non-bailable crime. But I have a problem with these things happening while he is in the thick of pinning down the First Gentleman, and prospectively the President herself, for corruption. The timing sucks.

I agree completely that Lacson may not escape responsibility for the massacre of members of a suspected kidnap gang, who were herded in a van and shot to death. I've been advocating that from the time it happened: He should be charged, arrested and thrown in jail. Public office may not obstruct justice, not even an elected one. Lacson has since graduated from a police official, when the massacre took place, to a senator of the land, whence he aspires for the presidency, but he remains indictable for the offense.

Immunity simply means that senators and congressmen may not be sued for shouting their heads off in privilege speeches, it does not mean they may not be imprisoned for crimes. We did right to send Romeo Jalosjos to jail for rape, and we did right to send Mark Jimenez to the United States to stand trial for racketeering. No one is above the law, and arresting Lacson for murder is a good way of reminding this country, which reeks of privilege and exemption, of it.

I am especially glad that Aquilino Pimentel, though a member of the opposition, appreciates the gravity of the case against Lacson. Pimentel has been consistent in his defense of human rights even during Erap's time. Clearly, his experience of having been personally deprived of them during Marcos' time has not been lost on him. "To my mind," he says, noting that the vote was 8-4-2 rather than overwhelmingly against Lacson, "this indicates that it is not a product of pressure [by Malacañang], and that it looks like it has been agonized over by the justices."

Be that as it may, there is no way in hell, or heaven, any Filipino is going to believe that the timing of that decision has nothing to do with Lacson's exposé on Jose Pidal. What the public is certain to think is that it is a thinly disguised attempt to gag Lacson and so spare the First Couple from the ignominy of being shown to be a couple of, well, you supply the noun. My problem with it precisely is that an appreciation of human rights and justice is the last thing it will teach the public.

Had the Supreme Court reached that decision a couple of months ago, before Lacson took to the floor of the Senate to damn Jose Pidal, or a couple of months later, when his exposé would have run its course, I would acclaim its wisdom without hesitation. I would stand in awe at its pristine beauty, or resplendence. I do not feel anything like that right now, and neither, I imagine, does the public. This is a case where a lesson in human rights and justice is being made at the cost of human rights and justice.

One of the most essential of human, or civil, rights is the right to free speech. It is the right to speak out against perfidy and damn tyrants to high heavens. Arresting Lacson and keeping him in jail without bail at this particular time deprives him of it. The law does not exist in a vacuum, it exists to serve society. What has happened to Lacson is not going to teach Filipinos that if you murder the lowliest citizen, you are going to get caught and punished, it is going to teach them that if you chop down the most powerful one, you are going to be hounded and oppressed.

Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, who wrote a dissenting opinion, speaks for many Filipinos when she says: "The spirited defense of the powers of the state in the context of individual freedoms is bewildering... The court should not remain silent and, more importantly, should make a firm stand when a citizen is harassed and persecuted by the formidable powers of government."

My added worry here is that all this could turn Lacson into a sympathetic figure—the way Kris Aquino threatened to turn Joey Marquez so by making him the victim of a media mugging—which should negate completely any effort to give justice to the people he killed. He may be found guilty in the court of law, but he may end up innocent in the court of public opinion, to which this case has been thrust by very bad timing. More than innocent, smelling up roses, the persecuted champion of truth and honesty.

Of course GMA's people will hail this as a triumph of justice and human rights. The former pillars of civil society who have flocked to GMA's side did say after GMA declared her intention to run that they approved of it because the alternative was dangerous, that alternative presumably being Lacson. But quite apart from the fact that it is stupid to think Lacson is the only alternative there is, it must be asked if Lacson is indeed more dangerous, human-rights-wise, than GMA. GMA may not be indictable in a court of law for unleashing terror in the name of fighting it, but she is so in the court of public opinion. That war has claimed infinitely more victims than Lacson has done as head of the PACC. It has pulverized human rights infinitely more efficiently than Lacson has done as Erap's *berdugo*.

Well, you know what they say: you kill an individual in a moment of rage, that is murder; you massacre a village in a time of madness, that is war.

GMA's people will hail this as a triumph of justice and human rights, but most Filipinos will only see this as a triumph of state mugging. You cannot defend democracy by the ways of tyranny. You cannot uphold justice by the ways of oppression.

GSIS should publish names of delinquent agencies

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RECENT move of Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda to bolt Lakas has drawn some criticism, doubtless owing to the perception that it was motivated by the realization that she cannot run with President Macapagal-Arroyo in an all-woman ticket. Lakas' Manny Peña, a close aide of the late Sen. Raul Manglapus, sent me a text message saying "Loren missed history when she left the party"—she could have stood for reelection and become the first woman Senate president. I agree with Peña that running for reelection would have been a surer move on Legarda's part. Her problem now is that with Eduardo Cojuangco's apparent disinterest in running, where will she go? (There's a report that his doctors warned Cojuangco that after his triple bypass some time back, a grueling national campaign would affect his health adversely.) If Sen. Noli de Castro runs with GMA (and he's being courted assiduously by Lakas), Legarda has a problem.

* * *

There seems to be a grand PR campaign to discredit GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia by portraying the GSIS as so financially strapped that applications of small borrowers are being jeopardized. The idea seems to be to project Garcia as a bad manager. Government employees were scheduled to stage a walkout as this column was being written.

I have been following the campaign against him in the media and it looks like his critics may not be telling the entire truth. Garcia says the GSIS had P16.4 billion in cash as of the end of September, while investments readily convertible into cash totaled P53.4 billion, for a grand total of P69.8 billion. It seems that a major cause of the GSIS' financial problem is the failure of various government agencies to remit the insurance premiums they have been collecting from their employees as well as the latter's payments for loans. This has resulted in huge premium arrearages and interest charges amounting to at least P40 billion, and over P15 billion in loan payment arrears. These problems were recently uncovered when the GSIS consolidated the data bases of its decentralized field offices and the central office.

* * *

Apparently various government agencies took advantage of previous GSIS managements' complete trust in public records. The problem is that members from the agencies that did not remit their premiums or repayments cannot avail themselves of full benefits because the periods of service when no premium contributions were received are excluded from computation of the creditable years of service. Meaning, as far as the GSIS is concerned, there was no payment during those years. Unfortunately the ones who are getting hurt are the lowly employees who need the coverage and those loans. Garcia should publish the agencies that are remiss in their payments, and perhaps the President can crack the whip on them.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo Lacson's lawyer, Sigfrid Fortun, has opined that the recent voting in the Supreme Court that threw out Lacson's motion for reconsideration on the Kuratong Baleleng case shows a "divided" court. Others said it was a "close vote." The overall implication is that there has been a shift of opinion to the negative due to pressures from the Palace. This may not be entirely correct. Actually, nothing changed from the April 1, 2003 vote of the high court ordering the reopening of the KB case.

The reader will recall that the April decision drew an overwhelming 10 votes from the 15-member Supreme Court, with only four dissenting votes and one abstention (Justice Antonio Carpio). Tuesday's vote retained saw the same four dissenting votes cast by Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Jose Citug and Reynato Puno. It was the majority of 10 votes that was reduced to eight last Tuesday, due to the retirement of Justice Vicente Mendoza who was replaced by Justice Dante Tinga. The latter joined Carpio in abstaining, doubtless because he's new in the court. The second justice to drop out of the original 10 was Renato Corona, who underwent surgery recently. It's not difficult to guess that if Tinga and Corona voted, they would have voted with the majority, bringing the number again to 10. It's important to note, however, that the original four dissenters didn't gain new adherents—meaning, the justices' minds were made up since April 1 and didn't change.

* * *

Lacson and his lawyer assert that the administration pressured the Supreme Court to rule against him as a form of political harassment. But it should be stressed that the new Rule 117 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure, under which Lacson's motion was denied, was promulgated by the Supreme Court in December 2000, during the last two months of the Estrada administration, and was deliberated upon during Erap's time. In fact, the Lacson case was the first time that the issue of the retroactive/prospective application of this new rule was raised before the Supreme Court. Rule 117 imposes as "essential prerequisites" that the two-year period of reckoning the reopening of a case be done "prospectively," and not "retroactively," and that an accused has to notify the offended party of his intention to seek provisional dismissal of a criminal case. The Supreme Court has consistently maintained that Lacson never moved for the dismissal of the criminal cases against him, and neither did he notify the complainants or their counsel of such intention. The Supreme Court also asserted that the new rule cannot be applied to his case retroactively, as this would make it a selective application "solely for his benefit."

Youth find a voice

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BANGKOK—Taking part in an international conference, such as this Second Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health (APCRSH), is like finding oneself in a marketplace. Everywhere one goes, there are choices and decisions to make. After the morning or afternoon plenary, one must decide which between seven or eight parallel sessions, along with three or five satellite sessions, to take part in. At the same time, "poster presentations," with the presenters standing in front of their displays along the designated hallways, compete for the delegate's attention.

A common syndrome is information overload, one's brain nearly cramping at the amount of data, statistics, analyses and commentary one must fit into one's grey cells in just a few days. An even more common side effect is compassion overload, with so many issues, problems, concerns, heartbreaking stories and, of course, people appealing for even just a bit of one's time, attention and caring.

Oftentimes, the voiceless and the victims must rely on others to do the talking for them, from researchers and academics to NGOs and government officials working with them. But in some instances, the people directly involved will find the resources to come to a conference such as this and make their own case. In this year's APCRSH, the most visible and active sector seems to be the youth, roaming the halls of the Twin Towers Hotel, the conference site, in their jeans and T-shirts bearing slogans and colorful logos.

* * *

YOUNG people found a special niche in the conference with the launching of the "State of the World Population" report yesterday, released annually by the UN Fund for Population, which this year focuses on the youth. Entitled "Making 1 Billion Count: Investing in Adolescents' Health and Rights," the report, said UNFPA executive director Thoraya Obaid, "is a wake-up call to listen to young people and acknowledge their needs… It is a wake-up call to support them so that they can lead healthy, productive and dignified lives."

Obaid notes that half of the world's population is under 25 years old, and one in five people on Earth are adolescents between 10 and 19. "Young people are growing up in a rapidly changing world. Many are bombarded with sexually explicit images. And yet, they lack basic information on reproductive health needs and how to protect themselves from early pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections." Despite the need to address young people's reproductive health needs, though, many adults would rather ignore reality and insist that mere moralistic admonitions are enough to protect young people from disaster. But as Obaid declares, "neglect and underfunding of adolescents' sexual and reproductive health needs are actually perpetuating poverty and the spread of HIV/AIDS."

* * *

THREE Thai youth stood up to represent their peers at the launch. Patthi Sukosi, a junior at Bangkok University and youth volunteer of the Student Network for AIDS Prevention of Thailand, summed up what young people all over the world need:

"What we, boys and girls, need is to be able to talk to our parents and trusted adults about our problems. We need our teachers to provide accurate information and build our life skills. We long to have 'youth-friendly' health services that we could easily access. We hope the government and the authorities will let us express our opinions and listen to us. The laws and policies that are drawn up (need) to give greater attention to our needs and rights."

"I may ask too much," Patthi concluded, "but, I do believe it is not more than the world can give."

Somkanya Tangsa-nga, a Grade 10 student at the Demonstration School of Chulalongkorn University, spoke in behalf of "millions of girls with less privilege in many parts of the world." She spoke of how around the world, "families and societies treat girls and boys unequally, with girls disproportionately facing privation, lack of opportunity and lower levels of investment in their health, nutrition and education." Adolescence, she added, too often "brings shame and pregnancy for girls, while boys are expected to focus on proving their manhood… Girls need more self-esteem and confidence…we need to be empowered to say NO to things that we do not desire."

* * *

THE THIRD youth, Supakit Paokitti, a high school student in a provincial high school in Northern Thailand, has been a youth volunteer with the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand since 1999 when he attended a youth training camp on reproductive health. He recounted what the project has done for him and his peers:

"The project has helped to bring much needed education to youth and adolescents through fun activities, such as: small group discussions, edutainments, campaigns on youth and reproductive health, and also by providing pills, condoms and counseling for those in need." The last may shock censorious adults in the Philippines, but Supakit declares that for him "this program is very important for the health and happiness of youth and adolescents in my province, and has already had a direct and positive impact on many people."

Too often, adults view adolescents as just "adults-in-the-making," whose rights and needs can wait as they have "all the time in the world." But as the report states: "The choices young people make, and the goals they set and the opportunities they are offered are not just preparatory: they are a meaningful and important part of their lives. Young people's choices can set them on courses that can benefit or harm them, their families, friends and communities. Yet adolescents are offered inadequate information, opportunities, resources and support necessary to guide their choices."

Search for model barangay waste management

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HOPE for the flowers, hope for the garbage, hope for and in the barangays. Imagine 42,000 ecologically empowered barangays, imagine the savings and earnings made from waste management, imagine your barangay enjoying the fruits of this green and healthy endeavor. Imagine the fun and the challenge. Imagine clean. Imagine beautiful.

The nationwide search is on for model barangay eco-waste management systems. This is not a contest, by the way, but a rating system that will reflect a particular barangay's achievements in complying with what RA 9003 says about solid waste management. This is not a contest, I repeat, but there will be winners of almost P2 million in cash prizes. (Someone please pump in a little more.)

So, look around your barangay, see what is being done and not being done in the solid waste management department. The ratings game could be a challenge and making the grade could be a lot of fun. You could help your barangay win.

So what are the mechanics? How is the green rating done?

Every barangay rates itself. The highest rating is five stars. Every barangay has the potential for five stars. Then, four, three, two, one and honorable mention. If your barangay does not make enough points to make it to honorable mention, it means you should work harder. Your barangay is not a loser. There are no losers.

The methodology is similar to the 5-, 4-, 3-, 2-, 1-star classification of hotels and restaurants, the ISO for business establishments or the ELO rating of the World Chess Federation for grand masters. Or the honor roll in academe.

The rating will be based on points earned in the following areas: social participation and ordinances; education and information campaigns; material recovery facilities (MRF) design, function and aesthetics; operation and monitoring of segregation, collection, composting and recycling schemes and sustainability.

Additional points are given for livelihood components, i.e., gardens and handicrafts, savings from disposal cost and waste avoidance, reduced residuals and earnings from compost, crops and crafts.

In other words, the more creative your barangay is, the more green points it could give itself. By the way, it is better to get a low rating than no rating at all. No rating means there is nothing to rate. No work, no grade.

Rating is done twice a year to assess a barangay's progress or decline in performance. Consistent high ratings over the years could lead to the Hall of Fame. This would make hall of famers try hard not to backslide. What a shame if they do.

So how does a barangay start to qualify? A barangay has to take steps in managing the community waste through mandatory segregation at source, meaning households. No segregation, no collection. A tough way to start, you must admit.

To join, one must fill up the official entry form containing a general checklist of what the law mandates. Each entry gets a number. The barangay chairman or secretary must certify the authenticity of the data, community profile, statements, stories, photos and other documents that showcase the barangay's accomplishments. All these, together with the entry form, must be submitted to designated nerve centers. Deadline for submission of entries is Jan. 30, 2004.

Who will evaluate? A panel of experts from the government, church, schools and NGOs will go over the entry forms and verify data submitted. A second panel will make a short list and classify those chosen into urban, rural, high-, medium- and low-income. An international panel of judges will help in the final selection of the barangay models for eco-waste management for 2004.

The five-star barangay gets P1 million (gold), four stars will bring in P500,000 (silver), three stars P250,000 (bronze), two stars P100,000 (molave) and one star P50,000 (paper). All other qualifiers will receive certificates of merit.

Citations will be given to towns and cities with the most number of MRFs in their barangays; provinces with the most number of towns with MRFs for residuals; and provinces that have converted their dumpsites into eco-parks.

It is hoped that this search would later become a way for barangays to become empowered through people participation. Even Barangay Fainthearted should try.

No two barangays are the same or equal. So evaluators will take into consideration the nature of the barangay. Is it in the slums or in a posh residential area? Is it by an *estero* or on a lush hillside? Has the number of garbage trucks been reduced? What is done to non-biodegradables? Has income been generated from them?

Here are some sure-fire point-earners: vermiculture, youth involvement, cost reduction schemes, community gardens, absence of open dumpsites and open burning.

The possibilities are endless.

Launch date is Oct. 15 at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Interested? Contact the National Ecological Solid Waste Management Commission (9202252), DENR (9280691), DILG (9203513), Clean and Green (5280504), Earth Day Network (6471181) and Eco-Waste Coalition (4347034).

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Loose ends

YOUNG BLOOD

Maria Cristina N. Cruz

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

PERHAPS, it's because I got a phone call from my best friend who said she was giving birth to their first-born in a few months' time that I suddenly have this urge to write about mothers, motherhood and the most important female in my life: my mom.

Not that I haven't written anything about her in all of my 22 years. In fact, I've written dozens upon dozens of essays, poems and whatever, most of them when I was an angst-filled teenager in the house. My mom had her hate mail, and I was the writer.

You see, living with my mother is like living with a policeman 24/7: "You have the right to remain silent, etc. Anything you say or do will be taken against you." And she's always on duty, always ready to catch you doing something against her rule book.

It would have been better if our house were a court of law; at least I would have had the chance to defend myself. But on second thought, I wonder if that would really help since my mother is the judge, and my father serves as the court stenographer. So even before I was an adult legally, I had already been found guilty as charged many times.

It feels like someone is constantly breathing down my neck. She reads my mail, eavesdrops on my phone calls and even digs under my mattress for my diary. She knows my secrets and remembers them better than I do!

When I was in high school, I absolutely hated her regular lectures on the perils of having a crush (not a boyfriend, mind you). If she found a guy's name written on my notebook, she went berserk. Once, she even threatened to confront the guy right in his own house! For her, that was like losing my virginity already. No wonder I never had a boyfriend.

What I remember most from her rule book was that I had to be home by 5 o'clock. My classes ended at 4:15 p.m. and the school bus picked us up at 4:30. If I was not home at 5:10, the school hotline would ring nonstop until I got home.

In college, my friends would often ask me what time my curfew was. When the phone in my organization's office rang at exactly 5 p.m., I did not have to guess who it was for.

Another rule she had set was that I could not attend any school affair that went past 6 p.m. without a chaperone. When she first laid down that rule, I thought it was cool. I mean I thought she was going to set me up with one of her *kumares'* cute sons. It turned out she was my chaperon, and my father was the driver while my siblings served as *alalays*. Imagine what it meant for a teenage girl trying to be cool to go to every prom, gala or dance with her entire family waiting at the lobby.

It's probably because of her stringent rules that I had almost no social life all throughout my school days. It was so hard to set up gimmicks with me because of my schedule. My friends tried to accommodate, but I soon realized they had to make some big adjustments. So I ended up just saying no to their invitation.

When I met a couple of my friends a few months after our graduation, the first thing they asked me was if I still had a curfew. When I said no, their eyebrows almost touched the ceiling.

Another funny thing is her English pronunciation. I have yet to to meet someone who can say "Tank you" like she does. I have tried to correct her many times but she insists that she is right. Every time we go to the mall or to some other public place and she starts talking in English, I wish the ground would open up to swallow me.

I hate her attempts to dictate my wardrobe. Sometimes, she buys me ultra-conservative clothes that make me want to choke. But there were other times when I ended up wearing outfits that even Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera would find too daring.

I hate the fact that she is prettier than me and sometimes has some male admirers knocking on our door although she has been married to my father for almost 25 years and has three kids.

I have written dozens of letters to tell her so and left them unsent but she manages to read them since I always hide them under my bed. And yet she has never said a word in protest or resentment. After reading a letter, she would act as if nothing had happened and then stroke my hair.

But what I hate most is the way she makes me cry. She makes me cry when I'm happy, sad or angry. She can make me feel guilty about anything no matter how innocent I am. I suspect she would have made a very good lawyer since she can make hardened criminals admit their crimes.

And I hate her for insisting she is always right and refusing to apologize for her mistakes because I end up forgiving her anyway.

I nearly ran away from home when she told me she didn't love me anymore and when she couldn't remember my class standing on my graduation day. But every time I packed my bags, I would hear her complaining to her *kumares* that she was having problems finding space to hang my medals and awards or showing them newspaper clippings featuring me. And on such occasions she seemed to know what I was thinking, because she would come to my room, hug me and just cry.

She never said she loves me. Neither does she call me "*Anak*" like she does my sister and brother. I don't know why. But then, she would tell my siblings to be like me—a good student and a good daughter. And when we are alone she would tell me that every day she realizes how special I am and how tough I am for putting up with hardships my siblings keep complaining about.

I still hate her from time to time, but maybe it's not really hate that I feel. It's just an emotion I can't put into words, an emotion you cannot feel unless you love.

For how can I forget the time she rushed to my school and confronted my pre-school teacher after she threw a chalk at me? Or the time she faced down the high school bullies who called me names? Or the fact that she always takes my side in any argument, and then tells me I was wrong in private?

How can I hate her for knowing what's right and what isn't right for me? Or having an infallible sense of what the future will be for me?

How can I hate her when every time I picture her growing old and eventually leaving me, I cannot help but cry and wishing that time would stop so that she and my papa won't have to leave me?

I hated her, yes—for reasons that seemed so right then and yet so absurd now when I think of it. It's funny, because I hated her for the very reasons I love myself, because I'm just like her.

I love gossip just like she does. I love talking on the phone when I'm at home and listening to music all day while munching on chips. I love shopping until the malls close. I love talking to plants as if they could hear and looking at the stars and making wishes. And I love heart-wrenching movies and books, like she does.

I don't understand her and I don't think I ever will. How can I, when I can't understand myself most of the time? No amount of wisdom I may accumulate will give me a perfect insight into how her mind and her heart work. I don't think any child can ever fully understand their mothers. But I doubt if any child can say that he would be better off without them.

Maria Cristina N. Cruz, 22, works as an accountant in a private company.

Designer pets

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

EVER wondered why we have so many breeds of dogs?

Well, those dog breeds are, in a sense, the earliest examples of genetically modified organisms. All across the world, in different places, humans have bred animals with certain traits or characteristics in mind, to serve certain human needs.

The dachshund, for example, is one of several dog breeds that were produced for hunting. I know some dachshund owners are probably thinking, how can my little Hot Dog hunt? Well, dachshunds were bred with the objective of obtaining a short-legged, long-bodied animal ideal for digging into the ground to hunt for badgers. Visit a dachshund owner's home and you'll often find the gardens have all these holes dug up by Hot Dog, who's still obsessed with looking for underground creatures.

Quite a few dog breeds were produced to pander to human needs for a little baby-like creature to cuddle and carry around. Thus, we have all these toy breeds down to the tiny Chihuahua, so small you can carry it in the palm of your hand.

With greater consciousness now about animal welfare, there's a growing movement in western countries to stop this kind of breeding. A friend sent me the Aug. 3 issue of the London Sunday Times magazine, with a cover story: "Are we a Dog's Worst Enemy? Why Europe wants to outlaw pedigree pets."

To understand why there is this move to "ban" pedigreed pets, we have to look at how all these different dog breeds came about. Although genetics as a science did not emerge until the 19th century, humans seemed to be aware that they could make certain animal traits dominant—from the color of the coat to body shape—by inbreeding, that is, mating closely-related animals.

The inbreeding used to produce all these purebreds has resulted in problems. The long bodies and short legs of dachshunds, for example, means they are vulnerable to spinal cord problems. German shepherds ("police dogs") and English sheepdogs, on the other hand, are prone to hip dysplasia or a misalignment of the hipbones, a trait resulting from selective breeding to obtain their sloping backs. These breeds' susceptibilities are passed on genetically.

In other breeds, the physical characteristics are themselves a liability. The "champion" here, according to the Sunday Times article, is the bulldog, described as "a waddling, wheezing, disease-prone lump of nonsense." I know bulldog lovers will object to this description but the Sunday Times article points out that the bulldog is the product of breeding that selected traits for congenital dwarfism.

Not only do they suffer from dwarfism, bulldogs, together with the boxer, pekinese and other flat-faced dog and cat breeds, have problems with their respiratory systems as well as shortened tear ducts, so these breeds are always gasping for breath and have "perpetually weeping eyes."

All this happened because people wanted dogs with large heads and small bodies, traits that remind us of babies and children.

Not all the genetic vulnerabilities are related to the particular breed's physical appearance. As with humans, some diseases can be passed on genetically. Afghan hounds, the Sunday Times tells us, are vulnerable to a "unique form of respiratory paralysis" and "necrotic myelopathy" (a muscle disorder). Cocker spaniels tend to have visual problems that may result in blindness; King Charles spaniels are "champions for leaking heart valves and have a weakness for heart murmurs, cataracts and slipped kneecaps" while basset hounds are "magnets for bone and joint failures."

As if all these breeding-related problems were not enough, the Sunday Times article points out that "cosmetic" changes are imposed on dogs belonging to certain breeds. Tail-docking is one such procedure, still required for some 74 dog breeds. The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in Britain has already expressed its disapproval of these procedures. It isn't just the pain of the surgery but the impaired natural function of the tail. Removing the tail of a dog deprives it of a way of communicating with other dogs, especially to reduce aggression. Tails are also needed for steering and balance—I was fascinated to learn that because male dogs have to lift one leg, the tail actually helps for counterbalance!

So what's Europe going to do now? There is a group called the Companion Animal Welfare Council that's lobbying the European Parliament to declare certain standards for heights and weights, as well as ratios for legs to body and heads to body to allow pets to lead healthy, functional lives. If a certain breed does not conform to these standards, then they would have to be "banned."

There is of course opposition to these moves, especially from owners of the problematic breeds but we really should be thinking more seriously about how we might be producing "genetically modified freaks." As a dachshund owner, who has cared for several pets suffering from spinal cord problems, including paralysis, I'm in favor of taking steps to address the problems. If you own a purebred dog that suffers from one of the diseases or disorders that they're known to be susceptible to, then don't breed that dog because it'll just pass on its disorder to another generation.

My sister and brother-in-law, who also own dachshunds and have spent quite some money for surgery to correct its spinal disorder, have told me they will no longer buy dachshunds in the future, much as they love the ones they have right now. They will be careful to choose dogs that do not belong to breeds with known serious genetic disorders.

If you're still in the process of getting a dog, you might want to think of a mongrel or the *askal* (*asong kalye* or street dog), who tend to be more sturdy and give as much affection as purebred dogs.

In fact, I've always looked at the *askal* as more intelligent and certainly less neurotic than purebreds.

If you already have purebred dogs, then love them, together with whatever congenital problems they have. But think, too, of how in the future, we might contribute toward a more humane world by moving away from designer pets, modified genetically or through surgery just to satisfy human whims.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

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Hail to the thousands of Filipino teachers

WE paid tribute to the Filipino teachers when we celebrated World Teachers' Day last Sunday, Oct. 5, 2003. The teachers are the most overworked yet underpaid workers in the country. They are the unsung heroes who have dedicated their lives to intellectual growth in our land.

We recognize their perseverance to give their students the best education, despite the poor facilities of the public school system and their low pay.

Teachers are often blamed for the dismal performance of students, particularly in Science, Math and English, yet we forget to commend their important role in shaping the students' intellect and character. The social fabric of the nation depends largely on the nurturing character of our schools and teachers.

It is often forgotten that among government employees, teachers have every right to hold their own "coup" against the bureaucracy that denies them decent salaries. It is very insulting for teachers to see the People Power government increasing the salaries for military personnel, such that today a teacher I, who is a college graduate, receives the same pay as a private in the Armed Forces of the Philippines who is just high school graduate.

It is said that a country's level of civilization can be measured by the quality of its prisons and the treatment of its prisoners. In these modern times, the country's level of civilization can be measured by the quality of its schools and its treatment of teachers.

We have been boasting about having gone into the information age, but in reality we are many times behind in our support for teachers.

We are saddened to see the plight of our teachers, but at the same time we commit ourselves to lobby for what they deserve from the state and society.

—RAYMOND PALATINO,
national president,
National Union of Students
of the Philippines,
790-A Sisa St.,
Sampaloc, Manila

Funds realigned, not diverted

THIS refers to the news item entitled "Funds for Tacloban City airport used for boats." (PDI, 9/16/03)

The report had the appeal made by Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez Sr. to lawmakers in Eastern Visayas to ask the President to restore the funds intended to rehabilitate and expand the Daniel Z. Romualdez (DZR) Airport. The mayor's plea stemmed from the alleged diversion of funds by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Moreover, this alleged diversion, according to Dalisay Muertigue (Air Transportation Office chief in Eastern Visayas), was reportedly confirmed last month by a top DBM central office official.

First of all, we would like to put on record that the undersigned or any of the DBM senior officials in the central office did not confer with Muertigue about the alleged diversion of funds. Second, we want to make clarifications by presenting the real version of the issue.

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) initially needed funding for the Follow-On Search and Rescue Vessels Acquisition Project (Fosarvap). Part of the required funding was taken from the Selected Airport Project (SADP) which, in the evaluation by the joint ICC-DBCC ODA portfolio review, showed the project to be behind by a year and a half in its schedule of implementation. Initially, P601 million was realigned from the SADP.

However, the DOTC decided to request the DBM to restore the remaining P436.3 million out of the P601 million for the SADP. In short, only P165.5 million was realigned from the SADP for the Fosarvap requirement. As explained by the DOTC, the amount to be restored would still be sufficient to cover land acquisition and other necessary expenses for the project. A Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) is already being prepared for the purpose.

We would like to emphasize that the move to realign funds is not meant to impair the implementation of government programs and projects, but to effectively manage government funds by way of spending where they are needed most.

—EMILIA T. BONCODIN,
secretary, Department of Budget
and Management,
Malacañang, Manila

Disparity in release of GSIS pensions

BY THE TIME a Government Service Insurance System pensioner who is gasping for breath due to a malignant illness receives his monthly pension from a Development Bank of the Philippines branch, he may have died already.

While the GSIS announces to all pensioners that they could get their monthly pensions on the first working day of the month, this is true only for pensioners who opened their bank accounts at the Land Bank of the Philippines branches. Pity those whose bank accounts were opened at the DBP branch for they will have to wait for a clearing period of seven days. For several months since May 2003, pensioners who queue for a number of hours at the DBP teller counters are always frustrated when informed that their pensions would be credited to their accounts after one week following instructions from the DBP cash department in Makati City.

To the GSIS or DBP, kindly remedy this disparity before it is too late, without obviating banking regulations.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
J. P. Rizal Street, Barangay
Camambugan, 4600 Daet,
Camarines Norte

Protest action against Angeles mayor

WE congratulate the government employees of Angeles City for their successful protest actions staged last week to press for their just demands and thwart Mayor Carmelo F. Lazatin's interference, coercion and restraint in the exercise of their right to self-organization.

The protest actions stemmed from the mayor's adamant refusal to honor his commitment made to the Association of Government Employees for a New and Dynamic Angeles City (Agenda) in a dialogue held last Feb. 20, 2003, in which he said he would pay the employees' GMA bonus and also implement other benefits and entitlements due them as stipulated in their existing Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA).

More than this, he has employed anti-union tactics in trying to frustrate the legitimate union activities of Agenda by unlawfully causing the removal of its protest placards and streamers, filing trumped-up charges against its officers and preventing the group from holding its scheduled general assembly last Sept. 16, 2003.

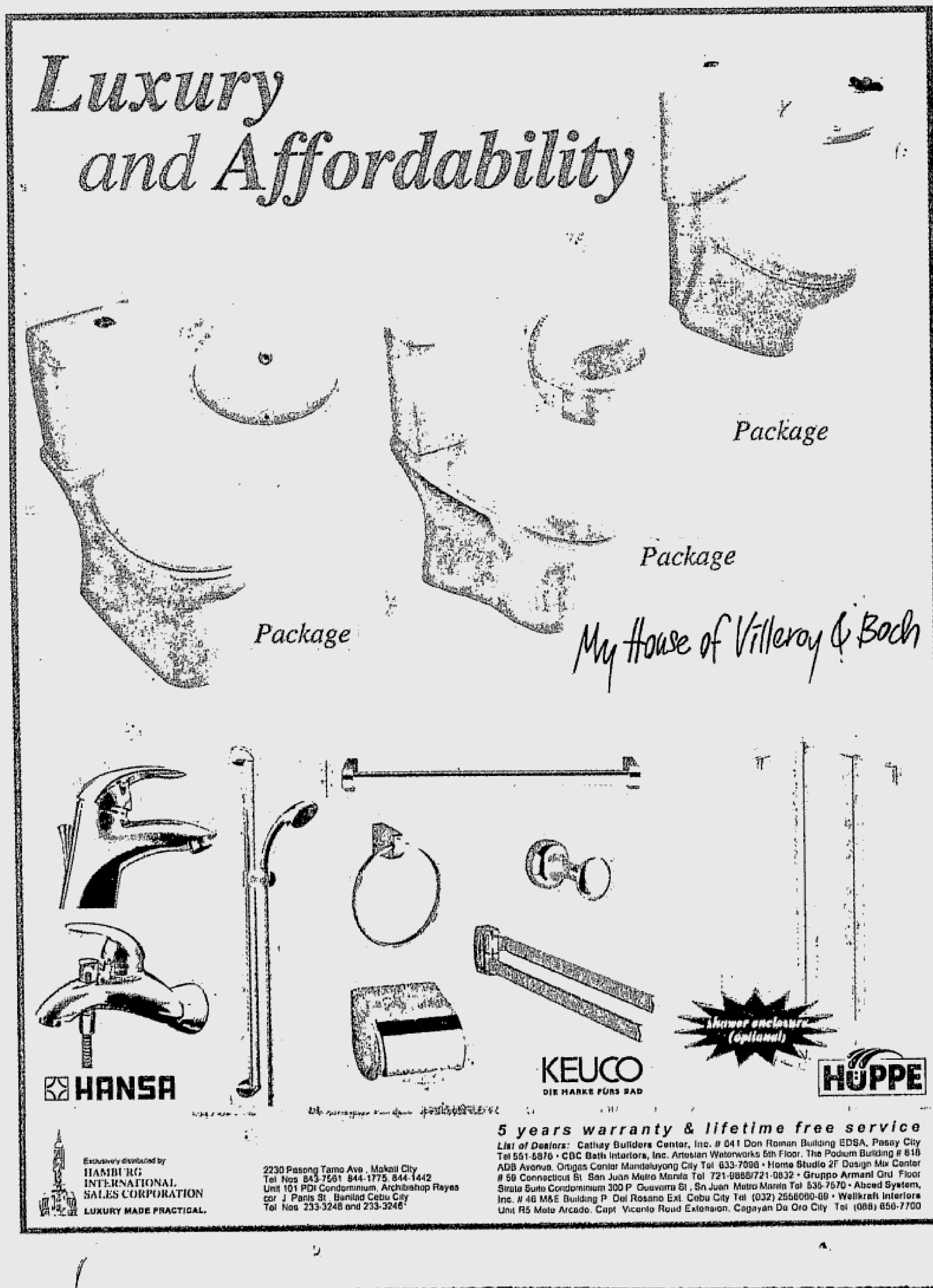
We deplore this display of arrogance and grave abuse of authority on the part of Mayor Lazatin. Not only did he refuse to meet with the employees but even refused to heed repeated requests of the Civil Service Commission and the Sangguniang Panglungsod regarding the demands of the employees. This only shows he has no respect for anyone, and that he believes no one, not even duly constituted authorities, can compel him to do anything against his will.

It is a great irony that while he can afford to lose millions of pesos in gambling, he refuses to grant the P5,000 which the employees are entitled to.

It is likewise quite appalling that the CSC has no power and authority to hold the mayor accountable for his acts of unfair labor practices against the employees. On the other hand, the Department of Interior and Local Government appears to ignore, if not tolerate his gross negligence, incompetence and grave abuse of authority.

Now that the City Hall employees have lifted their mass actions and have returned to work on condition that the mayor meets with them in connection with their demands, we expect him to settle his obligations with Agenda in good faith.

—ROMAN L. POLINTAN,
chair, Bagong Alyansang
Makabayan Gitnang Luson,
54 Rue de Paree St., L&S Subd.,
Angeles City



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DENR execs seize 241 smuggled wild animals

LEGAZPI CITY—Officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Wildlife Monitoring Team, the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office-Daet and the Labo municipal police seized at least 241 wild animals of various species in Barangays Anameam and Malatap in Labo, Camarines Norte.

The authorities seized the animals during an operation conducted in response to reports of rampant illegal trading of wildlife in the region, especially in Camarines Norte.

Ronnel Sopsop, DENR ecosystem management specialist, said the animals were recovered from a certain Nilda Merilla and two others, all from Labo town.

Among those recovered were Philippine hanging parakeets, civet cats, a pied harrier (a kind of eagle), a Philippine eagle owl, a tarictic hornbill, different kinds of doves, a python and other kinds of snake, a tortoise, a coleto and monkeys.

Sopsop said the suspects are facing charges of violating the revised Forestry Code.

He said the wild animals were being sent to a pet shop at Cartimar Market in Pasay City.

Sopsop admitted that illegal wildlife trading in Bicol is rampant, especially in Matnog, Sorsogon and Labo town, which are considered as wildlife smuggling hot spots.

The INQUIRER learned that doves are sold at P30-P60 each; hornbills at P300-P500; Philippine eagle owl and pied harrier at P700 each and civet cat at P150.

About 171 of the seized wild animals were released in the Bicol Natural Park in Camarines Norte. Seventy others were released at the DENR's Kalikasan Park in Albay.

DENR director Oscar Hamada earlier warned against trading of rare animals.

The smuggling of wildlife has become lucrative for syndicates despite appeals for a stop to the practice and in defiance of laws against wildlife smuggling. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NPAs burn sugar estate tractor

BACOLOD CITY—Suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) on Sunday torched the tractor of a sugar planter in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental who refused to pay "revolutionary taxes."

1Lt. Clarence Garrido, 11th Infantry Battalion civil military operations officer, identified the sugar planter as Antonio Montinola.

He said nine communist rebels set on fire Montinola's tractor in Hacienda Marianas, Barangay Caduhaan, about 65 kilometers north of this city.

The attack took place four days after six NPA rebels set on fire a tractor owned by Isabelita Montinola in Hacienda Sta. Isabel, Barangay San Isidro, E.B. Magalona town, Negros Occidental on Oct. 1.

The guerrillas sent letters to the two Montinolas demanding taxes. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

C. DE ORO SMUGGLING RAPS

Rice shipment declared legal

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—The Bureau of Customs office here declared legal the 13,000 bags of rice that militant farmers and urban poor groups claimed were smuggled goods that were seized at the Manila North Harbor on Oct. 2.

Lawyer Lourdes Mangaoang, customs district officer here, said the 13,000 bags were unsold rice from Vietnam which arrived here on Aug. 6 onboard the MV My-An and consigned to the Moro Native Land Farmers Inc. (MNLFI) through its representative Datu Michael Abas-Kida.

She said the customs office here collected about P11 million in taxes from that shipment.

Mangaoang said the MNLFI decided to sell the rice to Julia Dalisay Rice Mill in Bocaue, Bulacan last month as these were already infested with bugs.

The Bureau of Plant Industry authorized the sale after the rice shipment was fumigated as ordered by the National Food Authority.

"The port of Cagayan de Oro is the only authorized port for rice importation in Mindanao and if the entry of rice goes to another port in Mindanao then that is illegal," Mangaoang said.

Mangaoang said the two Vietnam vessels were in the port here since January. The Philippine Ports Authority also confirmed this.

The other vessel was MV Ninh Binh, which arrived on July 16 carrying 40,000 bags of rice. It was consigned to Mamarlao MPCI through engineer Katho Moreno.

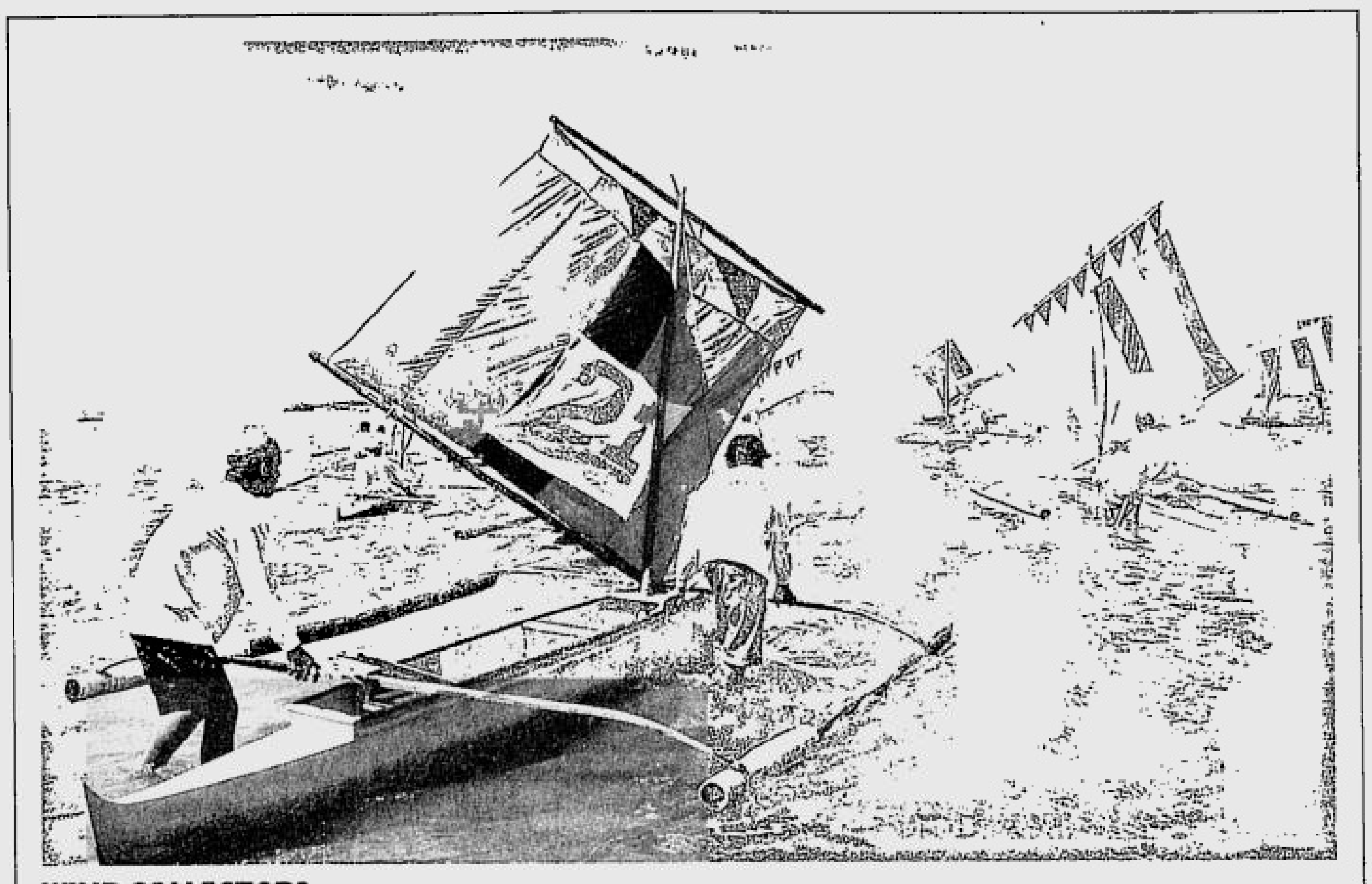
The customs collected about P6.3 million from that shipment.

"Can you call that rampant? In fact, the collections we received from them have even helped us go beyond the target collection since January. Not only that, the port's income has helped the entire bureau for the other ports in the country have decreased their collection to as high as 25 percent," Mangaoang said.

Mangaoang took offense on a report in the INQUIRER on Tuesday that the alleged smuggling of rice through the Cagayan de Oro City port was just the tip of the iceberg that could involve the Tindahan ni Gloria rolling stores which are allegedly being used as outlets of smuggled rice.

Meantime, Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo said the government annual subsidy for farmers has increased from P650 to P1,000.

Lorenzo said the annual subsidy would be spent for technology transfer. *Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



WIND COLLECTORS REUTERS
Fishermen in Zamboanga sail out to sea in their vintas, boats fitted with colorful sails that have become famous and one of the symbols of Mindanao, to compete in a sailboat race.

3 fraternity members draw life terms

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Three fraternity members have been sentenced to life imprisonment after they were found guilty of violating Republic Act 8049, also known as the law against hazing and other forms of initiations in fraternities, sororities and organizations.

Judge Edgardo Lloren of branch 18 and the chief executive judge of the Regional Trial Court here, sentenced on Oct. 2 Marlon Echeveria, Erwin Valmoria and Gary Galendez for leading initiation rites on July 21, 2002 in Balingasag, Misamis Oriental that resulted in the death of Elmer Cabangbang, 19.

The accused are students of the St. Peter's College in Balingasag. They are the first fraternity members in the country who were convicted of violating the anti-hazing law. They were ordered jailed at the National Bilibid Prison in Manila.

Cabangbang, a neophyte of the Sigma Upsilon Lambda Fraternity and Sorority, also known as the Knights Fraternity, died after suffering from physical injuries that led to kidney failure.

Cabangbang, with four other neophytes, was going through final rites of membership in the fraternity when he collapsed.

Fraternity members brought him to the Roa Medical Center, where he died.

Court accounts said Cabangbang and the other neophytes were kicked, boxed, slapped, forced to eat cow manure and were even ran over by a bicycle.

Four other neophytes survived the ordeal, but only one gave an account to police.

Manuel Ravanera, legal counsel of the victim's relatives, said it was the first hazing case won after RA 8049 was enacted on June 7, 1995.

Cabangbang's mother, Erlinda, went into hiding after receiving death threats allegedly from the other suspects who remain at large.

Another witness, Daisy Virtudazo-Sajulga, is now under the State Witness Protection Program.

Ravanera said Cabangbang's mother was offered P300,000 to drop the charges. She turned it down. *Grace Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

MILF says Norway willing to host peace talks

COTABATO CITY—Norway has expressed its desire to host the formal peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the rebel group said.

Lawyer Musib Buat, spokesperson of the MILF peace panel, said Norway's entry could boost the search for a peaceful solution to the Muslim rebellion in Mindanao.

Buat said aside from Norway, several countries also expressed their interest to help in the peace process.

Norway's expression of interest to help facilitate a peace deal between the government and MILF came after UN Secretary General Kofi Annan told President Macapagal-Arroyo of his desire to see both sides sign a peace agreement.

As this developed, the United States through the State Department's US Institute of Peace (USIP) informed the MILF it would join the peace process in Kuala Lumpur, which would resume this month.

The US entry in the peace process came after Ms Macapagal's visit to the States.

US President George W. Bush said his government would provide logistical and financial assistance.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF central committee information officer, said the MILF welcomes help from foreign governments if this would lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

"Provided it will not supplant the peace effort now in progress under the government of Malaysia," he said. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NBI arrests sex cult leader, files rape charges

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation has arrested the man claiming to be a sex cult leader who sent photos of nude women and children to media outlets in Bacolod City and to senators in Manila.

Leonardo Erobas, who claims to be the head of a cult that practices the "Espedeject Ideology," was arrested by NBI agents here on Wednesday and is now being held at the city police office's detention center on charges of three counts of rape.

The police initially intended to charge him with child abuse and seduction. But during the inquest proceedings recently, Assistant City Prosecutor Ronald Yngson upgraded the seduction complaint to rape. The rape complaints were filed yesterday at the Regional Trial Court here.

The rape charges were filed based on the affidavits of three of Erobas' victims, young women aged 14 and 15 years old, who claimed that Erobas drugged them before they separately engaged in sexual acts with him.

Arturo Nunag, Bacolod NBI chief, yesterday said that the arrest of Erobas could be considered a warrantless arrest because the crime he was accused of were "obviously" committed as seen in the lewd photographs he distributed.

Erobas, 54, turned out to be a small-time commercial photographer who conducted his business at the Bacolod Public Plaza.

Erobas, who promotes free sex through his "espedeject ideology," drew attention after Senators Loren Legarda, Rodolfo Biazon, and Roberto Jaworski received copies of his photographs in the nude, together with children having sex.

The senators urged an investigation of the source of the lewd photographs and the cult that was supposed to practice the lewd acts.

During investigation, Erobas defended his acts as legal, claiming that going around nude and engaging in sexual acts were acceptable under the "espedeject ideology."

Police, however, learned that Erobas' so-called cult was non-existent and that he acted alone.

The victims, on the other hand, told investigators that they were not aware that Erobas was taking their pictures while they were nude. The victims also said they were made to sniff rugby before every sexual act that they were forced into.

The police and the NBI said that based on the photographs recovered from media outlets here, Erobas has victimized at least eight other young men and women.

Senior Insp. Carmencita Saliba, head of the Bacolod City Police Office Family, Juvenile and Gender Sensitivity Section, they were trying to locate the other victims so they could also file charges against Erobas.

ROUNDUP

Remembering a martyr

ON SATURDAY, Oct. 11, the Friends of Immanuel "Imo" Obispo will commemorate Imo's 19th death anniversary at the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Memorial Center on Quezon Avenue. In a statement, the group said Imo, a former activist from La Salle, died at the age of 20 on Oct. 17, 1984 in a hospital in San Pablo City, Laguna. Earlier that day, he disappeared and his tortured body was found on the railroad in Barangay San Francisco, San Pablo, where it was ran over by a train. Reports quoted the train engineer as saying that he tried to stop his train but could not as he saw Imo trying to crawl away from the tracks. No investigation of the case was conducted by authorities. Medico legal results showed that he had cigarette burns in the chest, bruises in the face and head, and his right hand was crushed. His polio-afflicted leg was severed, but was severed and found not far from the accident site. Three generations of La Salle activists, from the '70s to the '90s, are expected to attend the event and the first ever barricade launched by La Salle students on Oct. 10, 1984.

Ecological school

CALAPAN CITY—Because of the high scores of its students in the National Achievement Test, the Saclag Ecological School in San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro received a special citation from the Department of Education. Even if the school is only a year old, many of its students scored 90 percent in tests in English, Mathematics and Science, according to Saclag Principal George Manibo. Ninety percent of the students are Mangyan Iraya children. There are also 30 adult learners in this school. Seven of its teachers under the supervision of Manibo are employees of the provincial government under its Programang Pang-Edukasyon sa Kalibliban.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Free seedlings

CALAPAN CITY—The Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro) Nursery now has a stock of 50,000 seedlings of forest trees and ornamental plants like Palawan cherry. From January to August, it distributed 65,000 seedlings to different municipalities and schools in the province. The nursery targets 3 million seedlings for yearly distribution. It was put up late March 2002 in a one-hectare land in Sta. Isabel in this city as an expansion of the nursery in the Capitol Complex under the provincial government's Clean and Green Project. Norma Cardino, officer in charge of the greening project, said seedlings would further be distributed to the different barangays. For those who wish to avail of the seedlings, only a formal request to the Penro is required.
Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

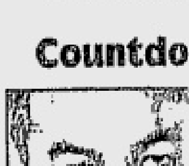
Cafgu survives ambush

LUCENA CITY—A member of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) survived an ambush by at least three suspected New People's Army rebels in Barangay Poctol, Pitogo, Quezon Saturday. The victim, Rodil Llaneta, 31, a militiaman attached to the Army's 76th Infantry Battalion based in the Bondoc Peninsula, was at the national highway in Sitio Sapang Palay at about 7:30 p.m. when the suspects approached him and at gunpoint seized him, police said. When Llaneta tried to escape, he was repeatedly shot by the suspects. He suffered slight injuries in the head and leg.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Farmer slain

GUINYANGAN, Quezon—A farmer was killed in a short exchange of gunfire in Barangay Sintonis, this town Saturday. Police said the victim, Ramiro Oquindo, 33, farmer and resident of Barangay Arbismer, who was listed as a New People's Army sympathizer, was reported indiscriminately firing a gun in the place. When government troops and police responded, the victim shot at them resulting in a brief exchange of gunfire. The victim died from fatal wounds in different parts of the body.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Countdown for Justice



WAPILE

IT is exactly 514 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

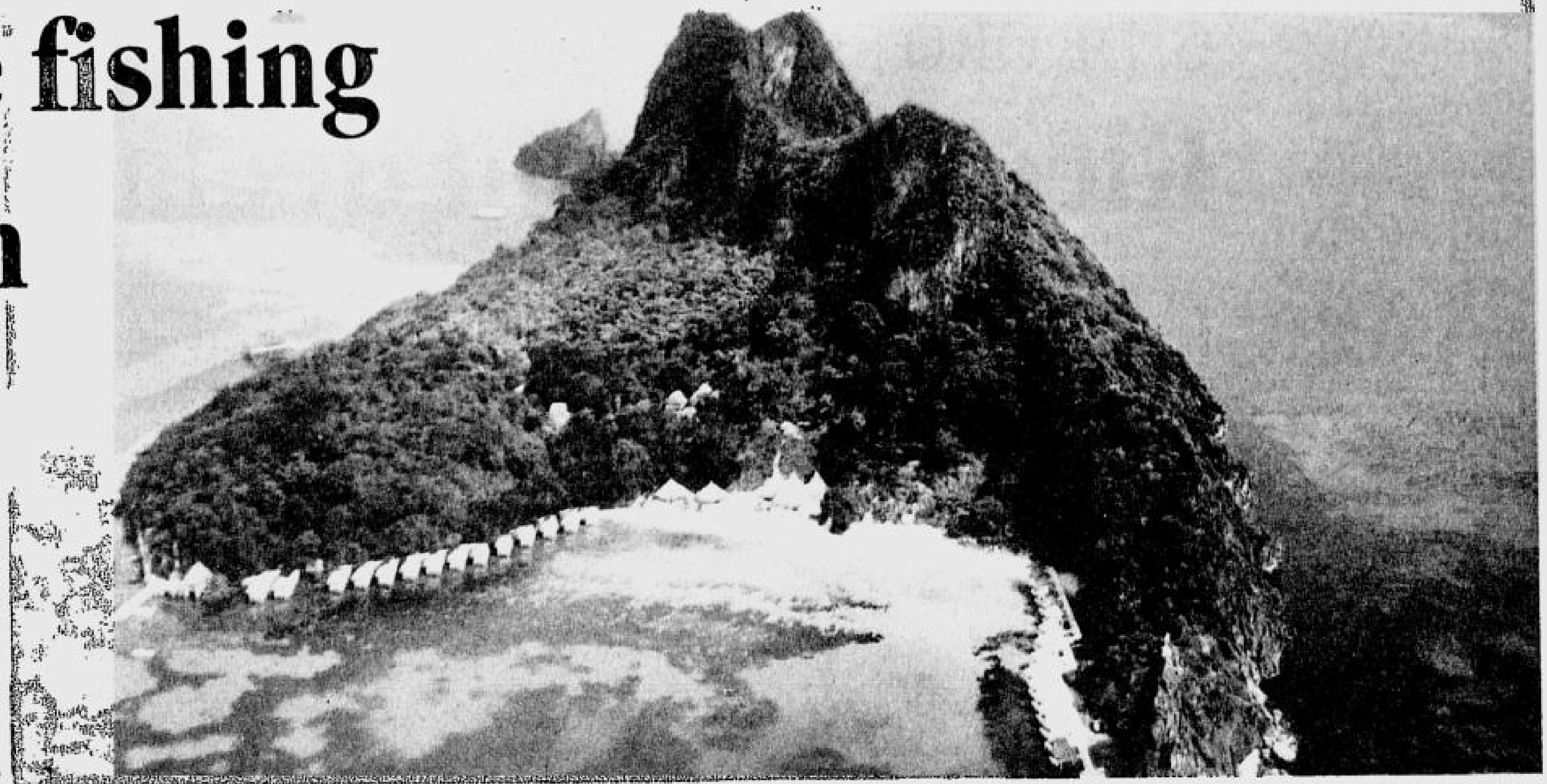
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Cyanide fishing ruins Palawan reefs

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
Puerto Princesa City



THIS ISLAND resort in Taytay, Palawan may be losing its tourism attraction due to the continued destruction of coral reefs as a result of cyanide fishing. JOAN BONDOC/PDI PHOTO

THE DIVERS' haven that is Palawan may be losing its attraction for lovers of the underwater world. Its marine resources have been continuously ravaged by illegal fishing methods.

Only about three percent of the 9,800-sq-km Palawan Reef Area can be considered in excellent condition; 24 percent in good condition; 42 percent fair; and 31 percent poor.

The figures, contained in the 2002 report of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development Staff (PCSDS), are the results of the agency's assessment of the reef area off 17 municipalities, or 36 percent of the total Philippine reef area.

The report was disclosed during the launching of a movement against cyanide fishing on Sept. 25 led by the PCSDS, a quasi-judicial and administrative body that manages the Strategic Environmental Plan for Palawan.

Dubbed "No to cyanide fishing campaign," the movement denounces the rampant use of the chemical compound in fishing and encourages fisherfolk and fish buyers to use the traditional hook-and-line and other non-destructive fishing methods.

Major cause

Cyanide fishing is one of the major causes of reef and sea grass destruction, according to the PCSDS and nongovernment organizations. They also noted a correlation between the live fish trade and poor condition of the coral reefs and sea grass.

Ironically, the top three municipalities with deplorable reef conditions are tourist destinations known for their beautiful dive sites.

First in the list is Taytay, with 85 percent of its coral reefs in poor condition, eight percent fair, and seven percent good. It has no more reefs in excellent condition. But former Mayor Evelyn Rodriguez, who is president of the Association of Barangay Captains, claimed that fishermen in her municipality were using legal methods.

In Coron, which is famous for its wreck diving and resorts, 67 percent of the reefs are in poor condition, 17 percent fair, and 16 percent excellent. In El Nido, known for its world-class resorts, 55 percent of the reefs are in poor condition and 45 percent fair. There are no more reefs in excellent condition.

Aside from being prime tourist destinations, the three municipalities are among the biggest sources of live fish exported to other countries. Live fish, believed caught using cyanide, are brought out in small planes.

A record of the Cyanide Detection Testing Laboratory (CDT) of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources revealed that from August to September, 45 percent of the fish they examined had traces of cyanide. Of the 151 fish samples brought to the unit, 69 were found with cyanide.

The sea grass community also showed traces of destruction, with only four percent in excellent condition, 16 percent good, 36 percent fair, and 44 percent in poor condition.

Sea grass serves as feed for endangered marine species such as *dugong* (sea cows), as nursery and spawning area of fish and other marine organisms, and as potential source of medicine.

Coral reefs are also a habitat of marine life, breeding ground for fish, food source, wave breakers and a source of medicine.

Deadly cyanide

Cyanide, which is used to stun fish for a moment, causes the death and bleaching of coral reefs, and the death of sea grass community, said Bing Cruz, a marine expert of the PCSDS. It is also harmful to humans and animals.

Sodium cyanide and potassium cyanide are used in electroplating silver, gold, copper and platinum. Methyl cyanide is used in producing fibers and plastics.

Hydrogen cyanide is a colorless liquid that is highly flammable and explosive with air, while sodium cyanide is an extremely poisonous salt of hydrocyanide acid.

The end-users of cyanide are electroplating industries, mining and metallurgical industries, steel manufacturing, synthetic fibers and chemicals, plastic production and other industry sectors.

None of these industries are located in Palawan, Cruz said. A mining plant is found in Palawan, but it could not be considered a big end-user of cyanide.

With these facts alone, Cruz said it could be inferred that cyanide transported to Palawan was used for illegal fishing.

In August, the Philippine National Police Maritime Group confiscated 500 kilos of cyanide in the Puerto Princesa City port on board an interisland vessel.

The Fisheries Code of the Philippines (Republic Act No. 8550) stipulates that it is unlawful for any person to catch fish with the use of poisonous substances such as cyanide. It is also unlawful for anyone to possess, deal in and sell fish and fishery species that have been illegally taken or caught.

Mere possession of poisonous substances for illegal means is punishable by imprisonment.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Administrative Order No. 97-39 states that "at no instance should cyanide and cyanide compounds be available to the fishery sector." Those possessing or using cyanide may be imprisoned from six months to 10 years.

Campaign

The launching of the "No to cyanide campaign" was joined by Bishop Pedro Arigo of the Apostolic Vicariate of Palawan, NGOs, students, barangay leaders and representatives of the Industriya sa Dagat Association of Exporters (Isda-Exporters), the largest association of fish exporters in the country.

Arigo said illegal fishing had an inherent evil. While there are benefits from it, the effects to the environment directly concern a lot of people, he said.

Most of the fish exported by Isda are taken from Palawan. In a position paper, the group said it was taking the mandate to help the PCSDS in its campaign.

The movement seeks to get the full cooperation of live fish and fresh fish traders and exporters in policing their own ranks and voluntarily imposing a limit on their procurements, subject to the close supervision of the PCSDS.

The live fish industry generates cash sales of around P2.5 million a day or P75 million a month, Isda said. Fresh fish is sold at P400 to P500 per kilo, while live fish is pegged at P800 to P1,000 per kilo.

Demand for live fish from the Philippines is high in Asia. According to Isda, the country's nearest competitor is Australia.

Fallacy

Isda also said it was a mistaken belief that live fish, such as groupers, locally known as *suno*, could only be caught using cyanide.

"This fallacy grew into seeming truth about live fishing, at the time that outside fishermen from Mindoro, Lucena, Cebu and as far away as Taiwan and China poached into the pristine waters of Palawan," it said.

It defended Palawan fishermen by saying that the majority of them chose to stick to the tradition of using hook and line.

"Although not guilty of cyanide fishing, they were guilty of not taking a strong and active stand against it," Isda claimed.

Isda is opposing the random sampling of live fish, already bought by traders and exporters, for cyanide testing. This practice, it said, punishes the traders and exporters for buying fish suspected of having been caught through cyanide fishing.

"It creates the impression that the PCSDS and the BFAR are treating live fish traders and exporters as illegal smugglers out to hoodwink them and all Palawan fishermen as cyanide users," Isda said.

But according to the PCSDS, cyanide detection is a requirement under the law. AO No. 00-05 mandates all fish exporters to have fish samples examined for cyanide. Without compliance, their permit as trader or exporter could be revoked.

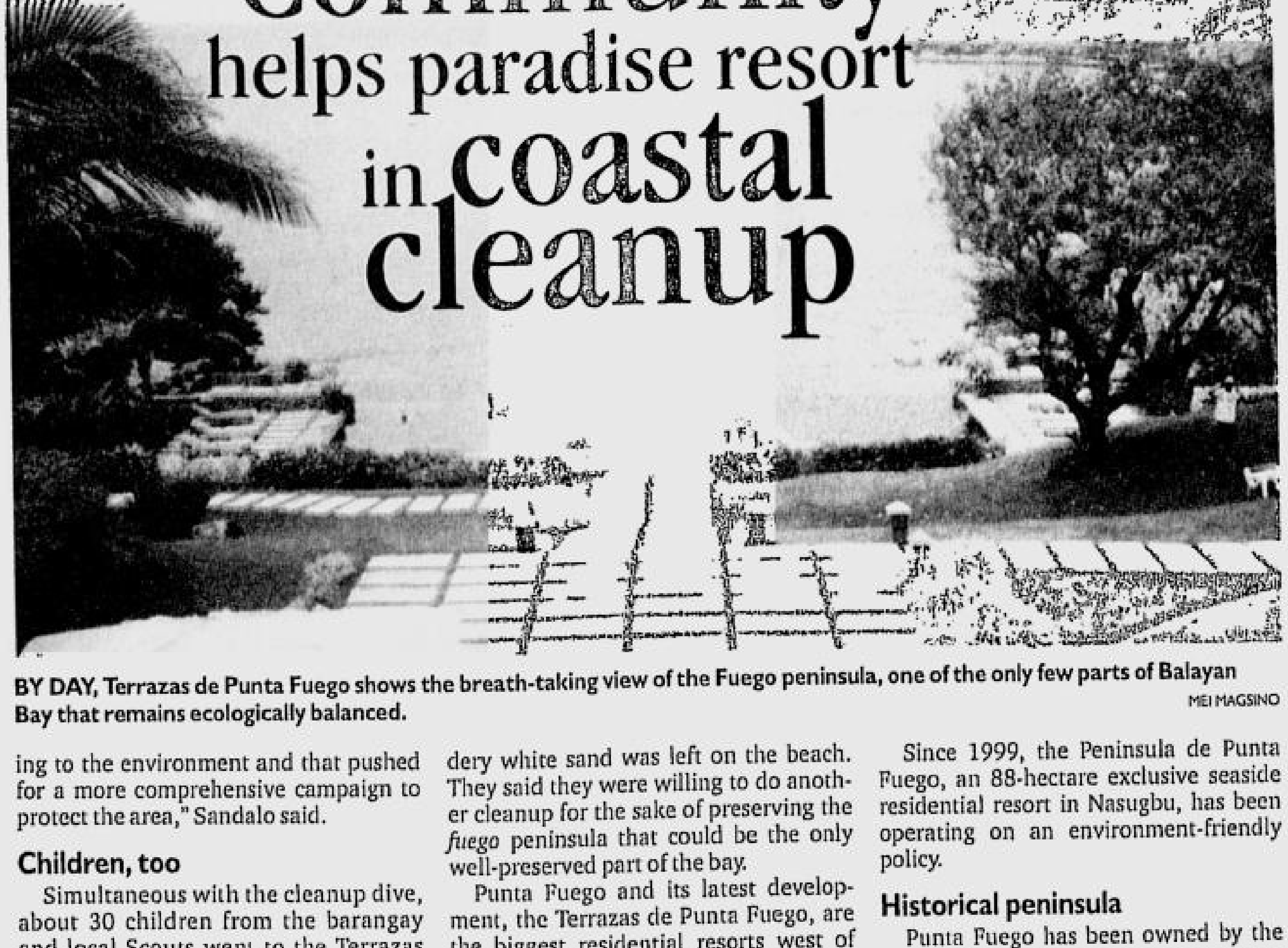
That 45 percent of the fish samples were found positive in just two months was enough proof that cyanide testing was important to curtail cyanide fishing.

Reports also revealed that some exporters do not go to the PCSDS because the live fish are taken by small airplanes directly from their sources in most island municipalities like Cuyo, Magsaysay and Dumaran.

From the airport in Manila, the fishes are transported directly to markets outside the Philippines, like Hong Kong and Singapore.

Community helps paradise resort in coastal cleanup

By Mei Magsino
Nasugbu, Batangas



BY DAY, Terrazas de Punta Fuego shows the breath-taking view of the Fuego peninsula, one of the only few parts of Balayan Bay that remains ecologically balanced. MEI MAGSINO

AFTER about an hour underwater, volunteer divers who joined the coastal cleanup at the Peninsula de Punta Fuego surfaced with their find—a small plastic bag of garbage they collected under the sea off Fuego Point in Barangay Balaytigue in Nasugbu, Batangas on Oct. 4.

The cleanup was a joint project of the municipal government, the local tourism council, World Wildlife Fund, Bantay-Dagat, representatives from the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts organizations, children from the barangay and the divers from Punta Fuego.

"The few garbage we found only proves that the Nasugbu part of Balayan Bay is still clean and the marine life is well protected. When the garbage we found underwater was only a handful, the cleanup turned into a fun dive," Mayor Raymund Apacible said.

Earlier, the divers were warned not to retrieve any sunken bottles or anything that looked like a bottle.

According to Ricky Sandalo, WWF program officer who also took the plunge, the "bottles" were actually unexploded dynamites that some fishermen used in the area before they were caught.

"Big damage has been done in the Balayan Bay. This might seem like a small fight to a big problem. But we have proven from past experiences in activities like this that the people became more aware of what's happening to the environment and that pushed for a more comprehensive campaign to protect the area," Sandalo said.

Children, too

Simultaneous with the cleanup dive, about 30 children from the barangay and local Scouts went to the Terrazas de Punta Fuego with their brooms and swept the shores. They collected two sacks of dried leaves that were scattered.

"*Kuya, malinis na po*," one Girl Scout said after filling a sack of garbage.

The children didn't leave the area without making sure that only the powdery white sand was left on the beach. They said they were willing to do another cleanup for the sake of preserving the *fuego* peninsula that could be the only well-preserved part of the bay.

Punta Fuego and its latest development, the Terrazas de Punta Fuego, are the biggest residential resorts west of Batangas, and only a 30-minute drive from Tagaytay City. Both resorts can be reached easily via the Tagaytay-Nasugbu Tourism Highway.

Dubbed the closest clean water beach destination south of Manila, the Terrazas de Punta Fuego is only a 20-minute drive from the Peninsula de Punta Fuego.

Since 1999, the Peninsula de Punta Fuego, an 88-hectare exclusive seaside residential resort in Nasugbu, has been operating on an environment-friendly policy.

Historical peninsula

Punta Fuego has been owned by the Roxas family for the past 100 years. It was originally part of the family's 27,000-ha hacienda in Nasugbu.

Historical accounts show Punta Fuego as the site of a battle between the Spanish galleon "San Diego" and the Dutch battleship "Mauritius" on Dec. 14, 1600.

The name Punta Fuego was coined possibly to commemorate that naval battle where "*fuego*" (Spanish for "fire") was the command given by the ships' captains to fire cannons. Since then, the people called the place Punta Fuego.

The peninsula itself is shaped like a flame.

The resort's earliest record of the property being called Punta Fuego is a 1775 map of the Philippines.

Developments

Developed by Landco Pacific Corp., a subsidiary of Metro Pacific in 1997, Punta Fuego is one of only three land masses jutting out of the coastline of Nasugbu into the South China Sea.

The seaside development included 12 beach coves that were preserved and is, up to now, still undisturbed.

"Even the architecture of the resort intended to blend with the natural environment," Mawi de Ocampo, marketing officer of the resort, said. "No trees were cut during the construction of the resort."

With its Spanish Mediterranean architecture, Punta Fuego's design blends well with the seaside climate.

Its newest enclave is the Terrazas de Punta Fuego, a 42-hectare residential resort with Hispanic architecture fused with Tropical and Asian Influences.

However, the residential resort that guests and residents describe as next to paradise is not open to the public but is restricted only to members.

This, according to a male member who requested anonymity, makes the resort the most sought-after haven for executives who value their privacy when they get away from the bustling city and relax in the countryside.

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Pssst! The house next door may be a shabu laboratory

By Leila Salaverria

IF OCCUPANTS of a house do not seem to throw out their garbage, and the house seems abandoned by day but unusually full of activity at dawn, it could be a shabu laboratory.

The characteristics mentioned are just two of the telltale signs that a house or a building is being used to manufacture illegal drugs.

According to lawyer Ruel Lasala, head of the Anti-Drug Task Force of the National Bureau of Investigation, members of a community can do their part to detect and report the presence of shabu laboratories in their areas.

Lasala also revealed that if a house is incurring an unusually high electric bill, fit for factories, and if it is well-lit, with exhaust fans and air conditioners running most of the time, then chances are the house is a shabu laboratory.

Vehicles arriving at odd hours to drop off packages and the presence of Chinese-looking persons at a house are also indicators that the site is a clandestine drug lab.

Lasala explained the last indicator by saying that, as far as they know, most drug operations in the country are being run by groups from mainland China.

He added that a Chinese chemist is usually sent by the crime syndicates to run the operations in the country.

The NBI official also said that operators of a shabu laboratory are very careful in disposing of their garbage because of the nature of their operations. The operators also tend to avoid detection by working at odd hours.

Narcotics agents of the NBI have been briefed on the detection and neutralization of clandestine drug laboratories in a two-day seminar.

The lecturers include Supt. Abner Ontog and Supt. Lina Sarmiento, both agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, who had been accused of involvement in drug trafficking.

The National Police Commission earlier said that, unless there is sufficient evidence, it would desist from pursuing the charges which Jonathan Prestado leveled against the two officers.

Lawmen told to steer clear of bondsmen

By Luige del Puerto

TO KEEP lawmen from getting a cut in the processing of bail bonds, an Eastern Police District official yesterday ordered his men to refrain from dealing with bondsmen.

This developed as bondsmen—who process or "fix" the release of prisoners for a fee—have been seen circling the Marikina police headquarters.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., city police chief, said that he has already ordered the removal of a table which the bondsmen had set up a few meters from the station.

Last June, Rojas barred the presence of bondsmen in police premises. Now, it seems, they are back.

Rojas said bondsmen should wait outside courts or the fiscal's office, not outside police stations.

Although what they do is legitimate, Rojas said no lawman should be involved in the fixing of bail for ethical and professional reasons.

"Our job is to lock up criminals and suspected criminals, not to help them go free," he said. "Cops should never negotiate for the bail of suspects."

Rojas is fearful that "some cops may take a cut," facilitating "the release of persons suspected of committing crimes."

Protests rock GSIS

PROTESTERS demanding the head of GSIS president Winston Garcia storm the agency's headquarters in Pasay City. On top, a GSIS employee is helped up by security men after he figured in a tussle with some of the protesters. JESS YUSON

By Clarissa Batino and Alcuin Papa

TENSION yesterday gripped the headquarters of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in Pasay City when thousands of protesters stormed the agency demanding the head of Winston Garcia, GSIS president and general manager.

Around 2,000 protesters, mostly government workers and teachers, tried to enter the GSIS compound on Roxas Blvd. at around 9 a.m. to hold their mass action, but they were repulsed by riot policemen.

Government workers and public school teachers nationwide yesterday took to the streets to protest the alleged mismanagement of public funds.

The GSIS manages the pension fund of the government's 1.5 million workers.

Mike Umaming, chair of the Cordillera chapter of the government union Courage (Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees) said government employees have the right to question the integrity of GSIS officials in handling the state pension fund.

"Many of us are getting furious," said Umaming, who led the protest at the GSIS branch in Baguio City. "While (GSIS officials) could afford to buy multimillion-peso paintings, why is it that we are having a difficult time in getting our P20,000 salary loan?"

News of the protest drew a sharp reaction from Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who hit government workers for implicating President Macapagal-Arroyo in the GSIS mess.

Courage, in a press statement, denounced what it claimed was a GMA-Garcia conspiracy that had supposedly led to the financial problems in the pension system.

"Linking the President to the problem is so misplaced," Camacho said yesterday. "(Ms Macapagal) is so far removed from the day-to-day operations of the GSIS."

Garcia also denied that the pension fund was in a mess and that he had mismanaged it.

Garcia insisted that the pension fund is continuing to make money, as shown by its net profit of about P14 billion in the first half of the year.

Last week, the DOF said that according to its investigation, they saw a failure of the GSIS to operate efficiently. *With a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Atienza tells militants: Go rally in Luneta

By Tarra Quismundo and Edson Tandoc Jr.

TAKE on Luneta, for a change.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said in a press conference on Tuesday that protests, a common sight in Manila's streets and avenues, can be held in Rizal Park.

"Luneta is a big enough area for rallies on any issue," said Atienza, adding that rallies held at the park, "will not jeopardize general welfare."

National Capital Region Police Office Director Reynaldo Velasco yesterday also issued an appeal to militants to "be hospitable," especially during US President George Bush's Oct. 18 visit to the country.

"We (Filipinos) are known for our hospitality," Velasco told the INQUIRER yesterday. "I hope we welcome him (Bush) well."

And should the groups insist on staging street protests, Velasco said that the militants have a right to stage protests. But he said the groups would be well advised to restrict their rallies in areas that the police had designated as "freedom parks."

Northern Police District Director Marcelino Franco, whose district was assigned to secure the US Embassy and its surrounding areas, also said that no rallies would be permitted near the embassy during Bush's eight-hour visit.

Another rerouting plan drawn up for Bonifacio monument

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A NARROWER Bonifacio Monument grounds and another reroute plan.

Caloocan City officials are hoping these could improve the flow of traffic around the Bonifacio Monumento Circle amid complaints of the growing congestion in the area.

City architect Roy Cordero told the Inquirer that as part of the improvement of the Bonifacio Monument, about 1.5 meters of the grounds where the monument stands would be devoted to motorists.

The walkway would be graded down to the level of the main road giving motorists a wider berth.

To address the heavy traffic, especially during rush hours, Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo also said he would meet up with jeepney drivers on Friday to discuss possible rerouting plans.

To decongest Samson Road leading to the BMC area, Malonzo will be asking jeepney drivers coming from Malabon City to take a left at Caimito Road, then take MacArthur Highway before making a right turn to Monumento and back to Samson Road.

Malonzo admitted that Samson Road is too narrow to accommodate a large number of vehicles during rush hours. Rerouting jeepneys plying the Malabon City-Monumento route to Caimito Road would decongest traffic not only on Samson Road but also a large part of the BMC.

Earlier, the city government closed a part of the BMC to motorists to give way to a park project.

Youth bloc wants wider role in LGUs

By Tarra Quismundo

IT TAKES more than just the family to raise the young.

The National Youth Commission has asked local government units to support its projects for the nation's 15 million youth.

The NYC is a policy-making body for youth concerns under the Office of the President.

But its mandate does not extend to implementation, according to Sharon Sarol, NYC presidential staff officer.

This is where local governments come in. Sarol explained that the LGUs have the funds to implement the youth programs.

The NYC has begun partnerships with LGUs through its proposal of establishing a Local Youth Development Council (LYDC) in every city and municipality in the country.

The council, Sarol said, is stipulated in the Local Youth Development Act of 2003, a proposed bill which is currently before the Committee on Youth and Sports of the House of Representatives.

Under the bill, the LYDC for a particular local government unit shall be created through an ordinance.

With the LYDC, the youth, defined as persons aged 15 to 30 years old, have the power to plan programs for themselves, "in a manner sensitive to their local culture, beliefs, and practices," according to Sarol.

She said that the creation of the council will provide a "definitive role" for youth leaders, as they would be directly involved in planning and implementing these programs.

Lacson's reaction to ruling expected

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THERE goes Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson again with his unfounded accusations.

This time, the victim of the senator's shooting from the hip is the Supreme Court, which ruled that the multiple murder case of which he is one of the principal accused should be tried by the lower courts.

The senator from Cavite said Malacañang pressured the high tribunal in coming out with the decision unfavorable to him.

* * *

Had the decision been in his favor, Lacson would, of course, have been profuse in his praises for the high court.

He would have said that the ruling was a triumph of justice, and all that crap.

Lacson and his supporters would have pranced in the streets, he in all his made-up glory.

* * *

Ping Lacson said that First Gentleman Mike Arroyo had inside track on the Supreme Court ruling even if he was in Saudi Arabia when the decision came out.

It was not only Mike Arroyo who knew how the justices would vote on the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case. Everybody who had an interest in the case, including journalists, had an idea what the decision would be.

Why? Because the Supreme Court seldom reverses itself. It had ruled earlier that the case should be remanded to the lower courts for trial, but Ping Lacson appealed the earlier ruling.

* * *

And, would you believe, Ping Lacson also knew beforehand what the decision would be!

On Monday, Lacson's camp came out with a full-page ad in major newspapers saying that he was being persecuted (a whale of a difference from "prosecuted") through the Kuratong Baleleng case.

In that ad, Lacson's camp said the Kuratong Baleleng was a "weapon for political vendetta."

How could Lacson accuse the current administration of using the case for political vendetta when it was filed way before Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President?

* * *

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, one of Lacson's allies in the Senate, discounted pressure from Malacañang in the Supreme Court ruling.

The independent-minded Pimentel observed that the vote was "very close": 8-4-2 against Lacson.

"To my mind, this indicates that it is not a product of pressure (by Malacañang) and that it looks like it has been agonized over by the justices," Pimentel said.

* * *

No matter how strict the leadership of the Philippine National Police (PNP) is, if the lower echelon is corrupt and incompetent, unfortunate incidents like what happened in Camp Crame Tuesday were bound to happen.

PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. has done everything to make things right and straight in the police organization. But he cannot undo overnight the decades-old corruption and incompetence within the police.

How unfortunate for Ebdane to make an ungracious exit when he retires this year. I can only sympathize with him.

* * *

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, has invited this writer to a hearing on the reported practice of some policemen of "planting" drugs on innocent citizens.

Barbers has taken notice of the case of Ricardo Romualdo, a mechanic, who was arrested by some Quezon City policemen for alleged drug pushing. Romualdo's case has been featured several times in this space.

Romualdo's neighbors and officials of the barangay where he lives will come in full force to the committee hearing.

* * *

Also to be summoned to Monday's hearing are the policemen who arrested Romualdo: PO3 Procopio Alquiza, PO2 Edgar Mendoza, PO2 Rey Cayabyab, PO1 Gullen Belen, a PO1 Acusta and PO1 Ruperth Vergara.

My staff at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" found that the cops did not coordinate with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) before making the arrest, a requirement under the newly-passed antidrug law. I'm sure my sentiments are shared by the majority of decent and law-abiding citizens.

This writer longs to see the day when those cops will be meted out the death penalty for framing up an innocent man.

* * *

Elsie Villarmil, the nursing student at the Philippine Women's University (PWU) who exposed the maltreatment of maternity patients by some doctors at the Rizal Medical Center in Pasig, complains that school officials continue to harass her.

This despite the assurance made by the PWU president, Dr. Amelou Benitez-Reyes, that the university would back her up in her exposé against the doctors.

Villarmil says that some school officials are now closely watching her tests and quizzes. She was told by some classmates that a professor said she should be given a hard time in getting good grades.

* * *

Those PWU officials are, in effect, siding with the arrogant doctors at the RMC over the oppressed poor patients.

How would those school officials react if their relatives were the ones oppressed by those doctors?

METROBRIEFS

Cyber cafe owner slain

TWO ARMED robbers barged into an Internet cafe Tuesday night and shot the cafe's young manager who tried to fight them off. Lester L. Araujo, 21, and owner of the Internet cafe on M. Dela Fuente Street in Sampaloc, Manila, whipped out a baseball bat to fight off the suspects who struck at 10:15 p.m. The suspects then shot Araujo, who died upon arrival at the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital. It was not clear whether the suspects succeeded in taking anything from the Internet cafe or from its customers. *Leila Salaverria*

Inside job

THE PASIG Police has wrapped up its investigation of a P3.2-million theft case with the arrest of an employee who stole her company's collections two weeks ago. Rosanna Ching, 45, broke down during interrogation and admitted taking the loot and hiding part of it in the ceiling of her residence at Ace Tower, Banaue, Quezon City. The P3.2 cash was stolen from Cell Prime, a mobile phone distribution company in Barangay San Antonio, Pasig City, on Sept. 23. Police are now looking for Ching's driver and alleged lover, Amado Alas-as, whom police suspect could have taken the rest of the loot from Ching. *Luige del Puerto*

Rookie cop in rape rap

A ROOKIE policeman from the National Capital Region Police Office was charged yesterday with rape before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for allegedly sexually molesting the nanny of the child of his colleague. PO1 Darwi Rosalin was accused by Merly (not her real name), 20, a stay-in babysitter, of raping her at least five times in August inside the house of her employer in Krus na Ligas, UP Diliman, Quezon City. In her complaint, the victim said Rosalin, a frequent visitor of the father of her ward, first raped her on the first week of August. She kept her ordeal to herself, fearing that Rosalin would make good his threat of killing not only her but also the family of her employer. *Tina Santos*

Lawyer ambushed

A LAWYER was ambushed while going to the market in Makati yesterday morning. Police have yet to determine the motive behind the ambush of lawyer Cesar Ambrosio, 44, of 1375 Pagkakaisa St., Barangay Kasilawan, Makati City. Ambrosio brought himself to the Makati Medical Center with a gunshot wound to the groin from a .45 caliber pistol. Investigators have yet to identify the two suspects who fled on board a motorcycle and who shot Ambrosio at the corner of Chino Roces and Ananda Streets around 8:30 a.m *Alcuin Papa*

Antidrug sting

AUTHORITIES yesterday arrested a notorious drug peddler and his two companions during a buy-bust operation in Pasig City. Nabbed were Dexter Mendones, 21, the alleged leader of the group, Roderick Castro, 21, and Riched Dagohoy, 22. Police seized from them 84.7 grams of shabu valued at P168,000. *Luige del Puerto*

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WORLD CHAMP BACK

CJ vows more victories

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHRISTIAN Jan "CJ" Suarez, the World Cup bowling champ, arrived home yesterday with a promise to bring more honors to the country.

He was welcomed by sports officials including Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, who vowed to give the 24-year-old Suarez an incentive.

This despite the fact that his feat wasn't included in Republic Act 9064, which is also known as the athletes and coaches incentive act.

PSC spokesperson Arsenic Lacson said Buhain will convene the board and deliberate how much will be given to Suarez, who is only the fourth Filipino to have won the event.

"The chair is presently working with the PSC board regarding the grant of incentive for our bowlers in the light that RA 9064 doesn't provide such for annual world events," said Lacson.

It was the same law which drew flak after it denied incentive to four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno and athletes from boxing and taekwondo.

The RA 9064 only rewards athletes who have won in the Olympics, Asian Games, Southeast Asian Games and quadrennial world championships, according to Lacson.

But that didn't dampen Suarez's enthusiasm as he vowed to win two more tournaments this year in Singapore and Hong Kong. Bowling wasn't included in the Vietnam SEAG in December.

"I'm very happy and I share this victory to my countrymen," said Suarez upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport where he rode on a motorcade to the Bowling Inn on Taft Avenue.

Suarez is an accomplished business solutions provider, having graduated from the University of Asia and the Pacific. He finished elementary and high school at the Ateneo de Manila University.

"I hope that my victory would inspire the youth to pursue sports and continue studying at the same time," said Suarez, who was accompanied by his father Teody in the Honduras tournament.

Also on hand to welcome Suarez were Jose Puyat III of Puyat Sports and Bowling Inn's Gilbert Gavino.

SUAREZ kisses his World Cup trophy upon arrival yesterday.

ROGER MARGALLO

SPORTS TV

COMPILED BY L. MANGUIAT

BASEBALL: MLB - ALCS 2003, Game 1, 8 a.m. (r - 5 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN - The American League Championship goes underway.

BASKETBALL: Bulls vs Knicks, December 25, 1986, 8 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports - The previous two Rookies-of-the-Year, Chicago's Michael Jordan (1985) and New York's Patrick Ewing (1986) lead their squads in this Christmas encounter.

Blazers vs Spurs, Game 2, 1999 Western Finals; 11 a.m.: Solar Sports - San Antonio's Sean Elliot tiptoes along the sideline and launches a looping three - pointer to burry Portland.

FIBA Tournament of the Americas 2003; 3 p.m. (r); Solar Sports - Catch another exciting encounter in the race for Olympic berths.

TENNIS: ATP Heineken Open; 10 p.m.; Solar Sports - Fill your need for serves, forehands.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Phil eyeing Mike for Kobe

JORDAN

CHICAGO—Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson admits he has thought about asking one of his former players, Michael Jordan, to come out of retirement if Kobe Bryant is unable to play in the upcoming season.

"It has crossed my mind," Jackson said. "But I don't think I would ask Michael that question until it became absolutely necessary or it became a reality. It's just speculation."

Jordan, 40, played under Jackson on six championship teams with the Chicago Bulls. Jordan retired for the third time last April after the Washington Wizards failed to make the NBA playoffs.

Bryant faces charges of sexual assault and faces a Thursday hearing in Eagle, Colorado. He is probably going to sit out of two pre-season exhibition games against Golden State in Hawaii, where the Lakers are training. *AFP*

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Thunder zap Hotdogs

PBA chair cautions Lina on airing statements

GAMES TOMORROW (Cuneta Astrodome)
5 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Ginebra
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs FedEx

By June Navarro

SCOTT Burrell can relax all night and Red Bull Barako could still win the game.

Burrell hardly flexed his muscles and let his teammates complete the job as the Thunder rolled to their fifth straight win with an easy 95-86 victory over the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Philsports Arena.

"Scott (Burrell) is the key to our string of victories. With him, I could rotate the locals easier and give them more exposure to build their confidence. The chemistry is just right at this point," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Guiao had the luxury of shuffling all his men with Willie Miller, Mick Pennisi, Davonn Harp, Lordy Tugade and Junthy Valenzuela inflicting heavy damage on the TJ Hotdogs.

The Thunder improved to 6-2, solidifying their hold of second place behind the Coca-Cola Tigers (7-1) in Group B. Leonard Cooke, who had another sterling all-around performance, paced Purefoods with 27 points and 17 rebounds but again failed to motivate his teammates and prevent the Hotdogs' slump.

The Hotdogs had lost their last five games and 19 of their last 20 dating back to this year's All-Filipino Cup as they fell into the Group A cellar with a 1-7 record.

Meanwhile, PBA Chair Jun Cabalan yesterday reminded FedEx team owner Alberto Lina that statements with respect to policies affecting the league must be first aired through the PBA Board of Governors.

Cabalan was reacting to newspaper reports stressing Lina's comments on the "Fil-sham" controversy in the PBA."

"May we remind Mr. Lina once again that pursuant to the rules of the PBA Board of Governors, all statements affecting the league must be aired through the appropriate venues provided by the PBA Constitution and discussed within the confines of the boardroom," said Cabalan.

Paolo Mendoza buried an important three-pointer in the last two minutes as Sta. Lucia Realty beat Barangay Ginebra, 92-85, in the other game.

The Realtors fortified their lead in Group A with a 5-3 record while handing the Gin Kings their fourth setback in as many games.

Scores:

RED BULL 95—Burrell 20, Miller 11, Pennisi 11, Harp 9, Valenzuela 8, Asaytono 7, Tugade 7, Reyes 6, Se 6, Villanueva 4, Torion 4, Robinson 2, Hizon 0.

PUREFOODS 86—Cooke 27, Raymundo 17, Castillo 10, Evangelista 8, Patrimonio 6, Fernandez 6, Seigle 5, Mamaril 4, Santos 2, Yee 1, Magtulis 0, Demape 0.

Quarters: 24-17, 55-38, 69-57, 95-86.

Sportsfests to highlight Minda peace

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain yesterday said two big events—the 3rd Mindanao Games in Mati, Davao Oriental and the 2003 Palarong Pambansa in Tubod, Lanao del Norte—will highlight peace in Mindanao this month.

Buhain said both games are envisioned by the PSC to serve as the pinnacle of a unified Mindanao sports promotion and development program in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's thrust to effect peace and development in Mindanao.

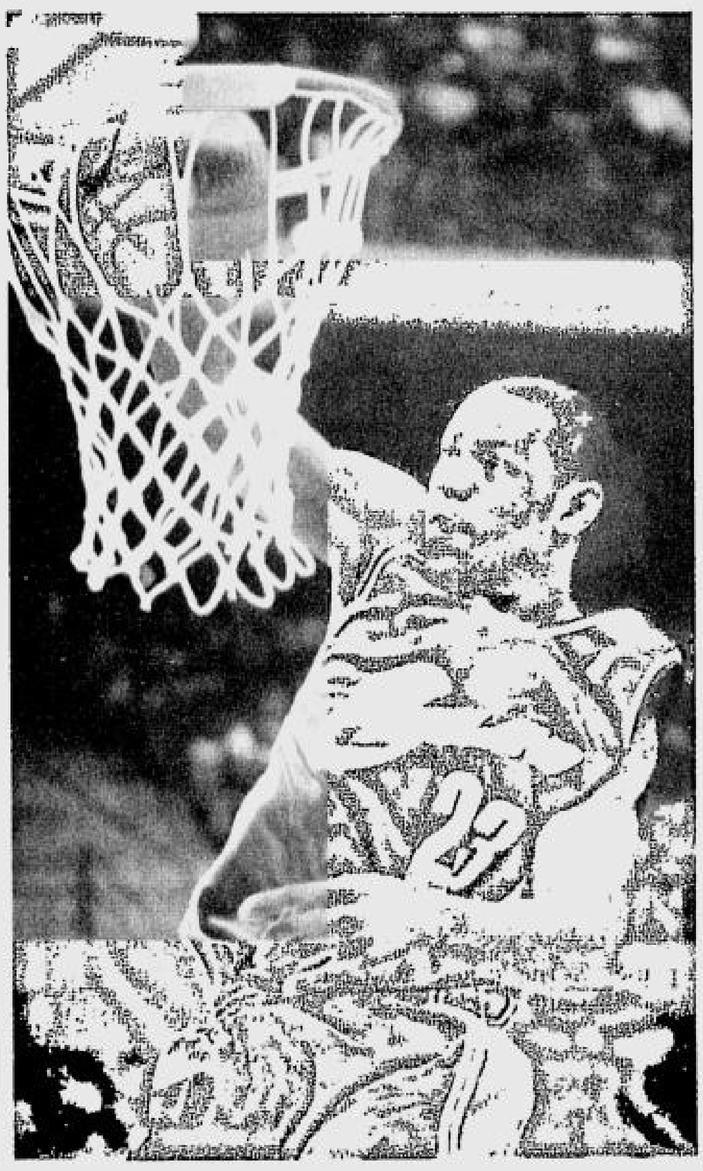
Buhain added both games will fast-track development in the region and help government eliminate the negative image of Mindanao.

"We believe that the Mindanao Games and Palarong Pambansa will not only be viable vehicles in accelerating this development but will also serve as tools in promoting peace and unity in Mindanao," he said.

Buhain is also optimistic that student-athletes will be in top condition when the Palarong Pambansa is finally staged from Oct. 25-29 at the sprawling Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod.

According to PSC commissioner and MG project director Leon Montemayor, the best athletes in Mindanao are expected to see action in the multisport open event competition in Mati from Oct. 19–24 as host Mayor Francisco Rabat, chair for the local organizing committee, and vice chair Louie Rabat are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that facilities are ready when the 3rd Mindanao Games open at the Mati Centennial Sports Complex.

Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Dimaporo and Rep. Bobby Dimaporo have likewise ensured that all facilities are in top condition for the Palarong Pambansa.



JAMES DEBUT
LeBron James goes for a slam dunk during his professional debut in the Cleveland Cavaliers' first exhibition game against the Detroit Pistons Tuesday night at Auburn Hills. The teenage sensation, this year's No. 1 NBA draft pick, scored eight points, plucked three rebounds and dished seven assists in the Cavaliers' 100-96 victory. AP

Tennis top bets prevail

TOP seed Lawrence Magaway blasted Korean Choi Woo-Whuk, 6-1, 6-1, yesterday to enter the boys' singles quarterfinals of the Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Magaway will next face seventh seed Taiwanese Lin Wei-Ting, who subdued Filipino Christopher Murfet, 6-3, 6-1.

Third seed Korean Lee Seong-Woo whipped American William Murrell, 6-0, 6-2, to advance against No. 8 Filipino Irwin de Guzman, who survived compatriot Nestor Celestino Jr., 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5.

Earlier, top-ranked Filipino Czarina Mae Arevalo outplayed compatriot Ivy Kristhel de Castro, 7-5, 6-3, and fifth seed Indian Gayatri Krishna clobbered local Jin Querubin, 6-1, 6-0, to forge a quarterfinal duel.

GAB gobbledygook

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HERE is another case of how government hits us below the belt.

The Games and Amusements Board, the government agency tasked to oversee all professional sports events in the country, has a rule that is not even Jurassic in nature. It is not an outdated rule. Not even an antique. Nonexistent, if we go by GAB records to prove it.

What I'm referring to is a GAB rule that is not written and, therefore, not found even in GAB archives. Invisible. And yet, it's been there, being implemented for how long, nobody knows. Not even by the Gab people themselves.

"We have no record of it," Noli Flores of GAB was quoted as saying in an alleged answer to a query posed by Rudy Salud, the lawyer-manager of Z Gorres. "There is not even a GAB resolution to prove its existence."

Flores said the rule refers to two boxers not allowed by the GAB to meet again within six months since they last met. When pressed by Salud to present an evidence to prove it, Flores, GAB's boxing chief, said there was none.

Now tell me, whom is Flores fooling?

If there's no document to prove what he's saying, then Flores is fooling nobody but himself. What hurts, though, is that his foolishness has fooled so many people already in the past.

It's time to put an end to this gobbledygook. And woe to Flores, he's got a heavyweight in Salud to deal with. For one, Salud is a pillar of world boxing, having been the first secretary general of the World Boxing Council whose Charter he had helped create. For another, Salud was a long-time cog of the GAB when Justiniano Montano was still GAB chairman. So, for all intents and purposes, Salud knows the GAB like the palm of his hand.

I can't wait to see the return of Flores, who is in Russia attending a boxing convention, and hear him explain his side on the matter.

In the meantime, Z Gorres, just about the most exciting boxer in the land today, has rebounded by winning twice since the June 1 shock loss to Rodrigo. The last one was against the undefeated Ryan Campecenio. That fight will be shown on Sunday over RPN 9 and see for your self how good a boxer this Gorres is. Heard he lost to Rodrigo only because he had infected teeth days before the fight. Eight of Gorres' teeth had been pulled out since and, as a result, he knocked out his last two opponents in style-in the third and fifth round, respectively. He is itching to avenge that loss to Rodrigo but, if we go by Flores' word, that won't materialize until Dec. 1.

Meanwhile, any word on this from the GAB chief himself, Eduardo Villanueva?

My number is, 9325120. Only two others know that number—George W. Bush and Sol Juvida. So please, keep that a secret, sir?

***

FASTBREAK. RJ will hold the mother of all rock concerts on Oct. 25 at the Araneta Coliseum. You miss that and it's like missing your JS Prom, if not your noche buena. If I get the kick, I may yet sing a couple of songs with RJ and The Riots; I might do Imagine and Why Don't We Do It On The Road. . . . JOHN Lennon would have turned 63 today if he were alive. The Chief Beatle was killed by a crazed gunman on Dec. 8, 1980, in New York City as he was entering the gates of the famous Dakota Apartments where he and his wife, Yoko Ono, and their son, Sean, lived. I wrote about John Lennon's life and death for a cover story of the Bulletin's Panorama magazine in December 1980. Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc was then Panorama editor and I was her sports/literary editor. Boy, how time flies. When The Beatles came to Manila in July 1966, all roads led to Manila. I was a kid growing up in Mangatarem, Pangasinan, and what I did was sell a bayong of avocado fruits; proceeds of the sale I spent for my bus fare to Manila to watch The Fab Four perform at the Rizal Memorial Track-Football stadium. My ticket to the show was bought by my brother, Kuya Pepito, then a college student at Adamson and who is now a resident of Toronto, Canada. Oh, yes, I almost forgot. Kuya Pepito let me borrow his pair of boots, Beatles style. Custom made by Glenmore. *Kumpletos rekados, pre.* Ah, those were the days.

SPORTSWATCH

4-way GP fight looms

THE FORMULA Toyota Cup winds up this weekend (Oct. 11-12) with four drivers aiming to win the crown in the sixth leg of the 2003 Casino Filipino Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario. JP Carino of Intelco Racing, George Apacible of Edgesports, Arvin Drueco of Casino Filipino-AF3 Edgesport-Caltex and Jeremy Marquez of Casino Filipino-Skytrek-AF3 Edgesports will fight it out in rounds 11 and 12 of this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Toyota Motors Phils., Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Norkis Yamaha, Pagcor Sports and Addict Mobile.

Tour of Pangasinan set

THE TOUR of Pangasinan will feature a team time trial (TTT) on Saturday and a massed start race on Sunday. Highlight of the event that includes a juniors race among 18-under riders from the province is the recognition of 16 former Pangasinense Tour champions led by 2003 Tour Pilipinas champion Arnel Quirimit of Pozzorubio and 2002 Fed-Express Tour of Calabarzon titlist Santy Barnachea. Air21 president and Tour Pilipinas organizer Lito Alvarez will represent Bert Lina, the newly installed national cycling federation president, during the awards ceremonies Sunday in Mangatarem town.

San Beda vs UST XI

SAN Beda College and University of Santo Tomas scored identical 1-0 wins Sunday against their opponents to enter the finals of the "Ang Liga" football tournament at the Philsports. San Beda got an 11th minute goal from Jeremias Jiao from a right cross by Vaughn Mellendrez and managed to withstand the University of the East pressure for the remaining 79 minutes. The finals will be held this Sunday.

Primo interment

MERCEDES S. Primo, mother of Tumbok sports columnist Orlando Primo, died last week after a lingering illnes. She was 79. She will be buried today at the Eternal Gardens, Biñan, Laguna, after a morning Mass at the Primo residence at Great Land Village in San Pedro.

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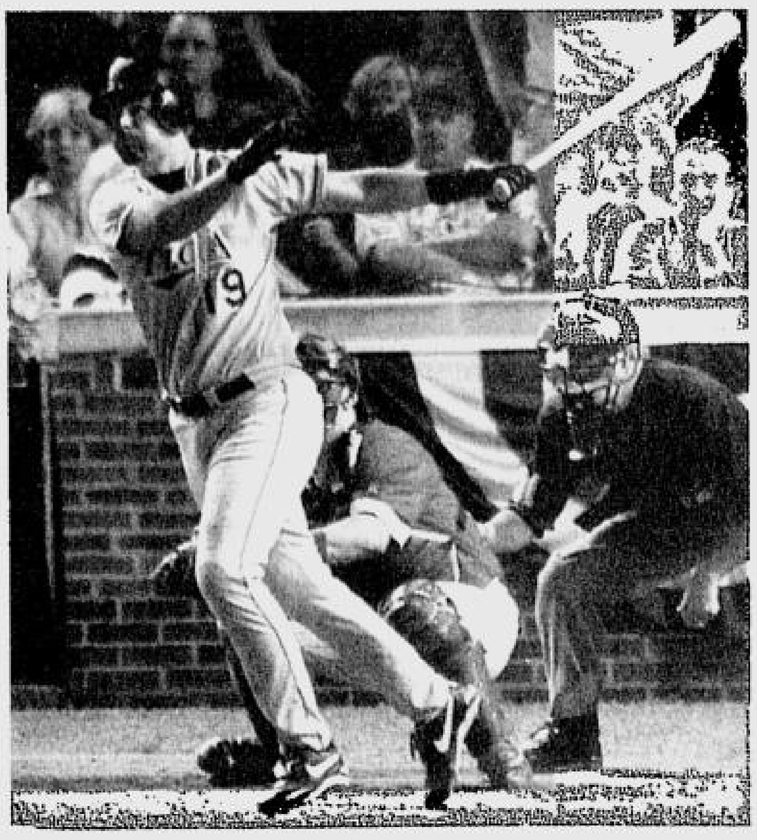

FLORIDA Marlins pinch-hitter Mike Lowell watches his solo homer at the top of the 11th inning against the Chicago Cubs in Game 1 of the National League championship series Tuesday, Oct. 7, at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The Marlins prevailed, 9-8. AP

Marlins edge Sosa, Cubs

Lowell keys 9-8 win in Game 1

CHICAGO—With Wrigley Field still shaking after Sammy Sosa's tremendous, tying homer with two outs in the ninth inning, Mike Lowell led off the 11th with a pinch-hit home run Tuesday that sent the Florida Marlins over the Chicago Cubs 9-8 in the National League championship series opener.

"It just kept going back and forth. Weird," Lowell said. "It was kind of like a boxing match."

In a game featuring seven homers, four triples and six doubles, Sosa's two-run shot was clearly the most dramatic. He finally delivered a big postseason hit, and when the ball landed beyond the left-field wall, it turned Waveland Avenue into Bedlam Boulevard.

"We didn't celebrate, for sure," Marlins manager Jack McKeon said. "I think there was a pause right there."

Too bad for the Cubs, Lowell's drive won it. He had help, too—playoff star Ivan Rodriguez homered and drove in five runs for Florida.

"That's playoff baseball," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. "It was full of emotional twists. I'm sure everyone is emotionally exhausted.

"It's disheartening. We had an opportunity to win the game," he said. "Sad we came out on the short end, very sad."

An All-Star third baseman, Lowell missed almost all of the final four weeks because of a broken left hand, and has played sparingly in the postseason. He was ready for his first pinch-hitting appearance this year, batting for winning pitcher Ugueth Urbina and launching a drive over the center-field wall off Mark Guthrie.

The sellout crowd of 39,567 started rocking early as Moises Alou homered in a four-run first. But the Marlins, who posted three comeback wins over San Francisco in the opening round, stormed back when Rodriguez, rookie Miguel Cabrera and Juan Encarnacion homered in a five-run third.

Braden Looper pitched the 11th for a save, giving the Marlins a win and a nice omen. *AP*

Strada golfest tomorrow

A MAXIMUM field of 120 players will see action in the first Sta. Maria Della Strada Golf Invitational, a fund-raising event of the Sta. Maria Della Strada parish, slated tomorrow (Friday, Oct. 10) at the west course of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Tee-off time is 8 a.m.

The participants will dispute the trophies and special prizes at stake for the overall champion, low gross scorer and top finishers in Class A, Class B, Class C and ladies in the 18-hole event the proceeds of which will go to Della Strada's Landas ng Karunungan and Landas ng Paglilingkod projects for the underprivileged residents of Pansol, Balara and Kaingin 1 and 2 in Quezon City.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo heads the roster of sponsors which also includes Pascual Laboratory, Smart Communications, Credit Suisse First Boston Hong Kong Ltd., United Coconut Planters Life Assurance Corp., China Banking Corp., 24/7 International, Planters Dev't Bank, Asian Spirit, Comworks Inc., Jollibee Food Corp., Metrobank, 680 Home Appliances, Daikin airconditioning, Bank of Commerce, MC Engineering, Premium Agro Vet, Inc., Secretary Obet Pagdanganan, Makati Vice Mayor Ernesto and Juanita Mercado, Jose and Dolores Orillaza, Butch Campos, Danny Esquivel and Boxing Promotions&Ventures Unlimited Corp. Lambert Ramos, chair of the organizing committee, bared that golfers can look forward to a bonanza of prizes to be won including a Dream Satellite for a hole-in-one on all par-3 holes.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2--1 Order of Merit 2. Vojamac 3. Stingray 4. Star Emblem 5. Longshot Tony

Race 3--1. Sweet Talk 2. War Epic 3. Exchange Deal

Race 4--1. Super Cool 2. Hezabellagio 3. Slip Away 4. Hezabellagio 5. Itz Me Dahlin

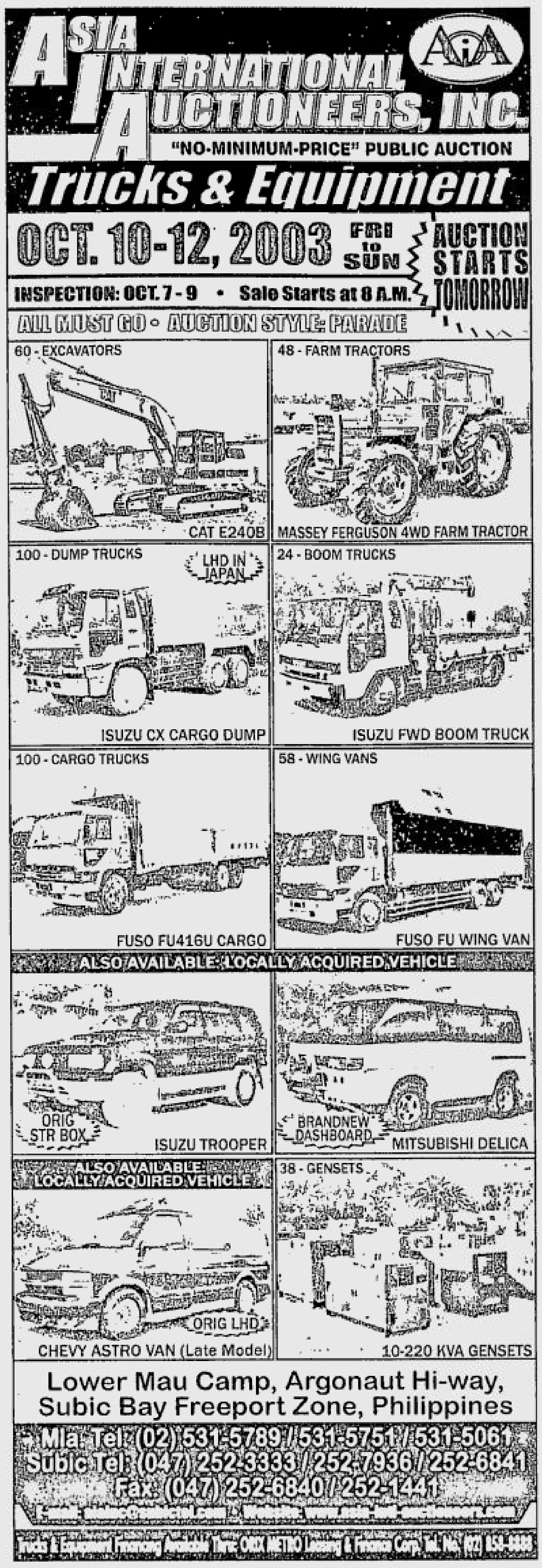
Race 5--1. Hope 2. Cash Position 3. Queen Ramasas

Race 6--1. Jay Nicole 2. Dynamic Jason 3. Magical Surf 4. Sand Splash

Race 7--1. Diamond Sky 2. Wing Away 3. Andrei's Billiard 4. Sarangani Dancer 5. Friendly Lover

Race 8--1. Sandstorm 2. Princess Dancer 3. Compañero 4. Cycloneferros

Race 9--1. Headliner/Carte Blanche 2. Princess Malinda 3. Epic Energy 4. St. Emilion 5. Scream for Chance 6. Binatang Taring



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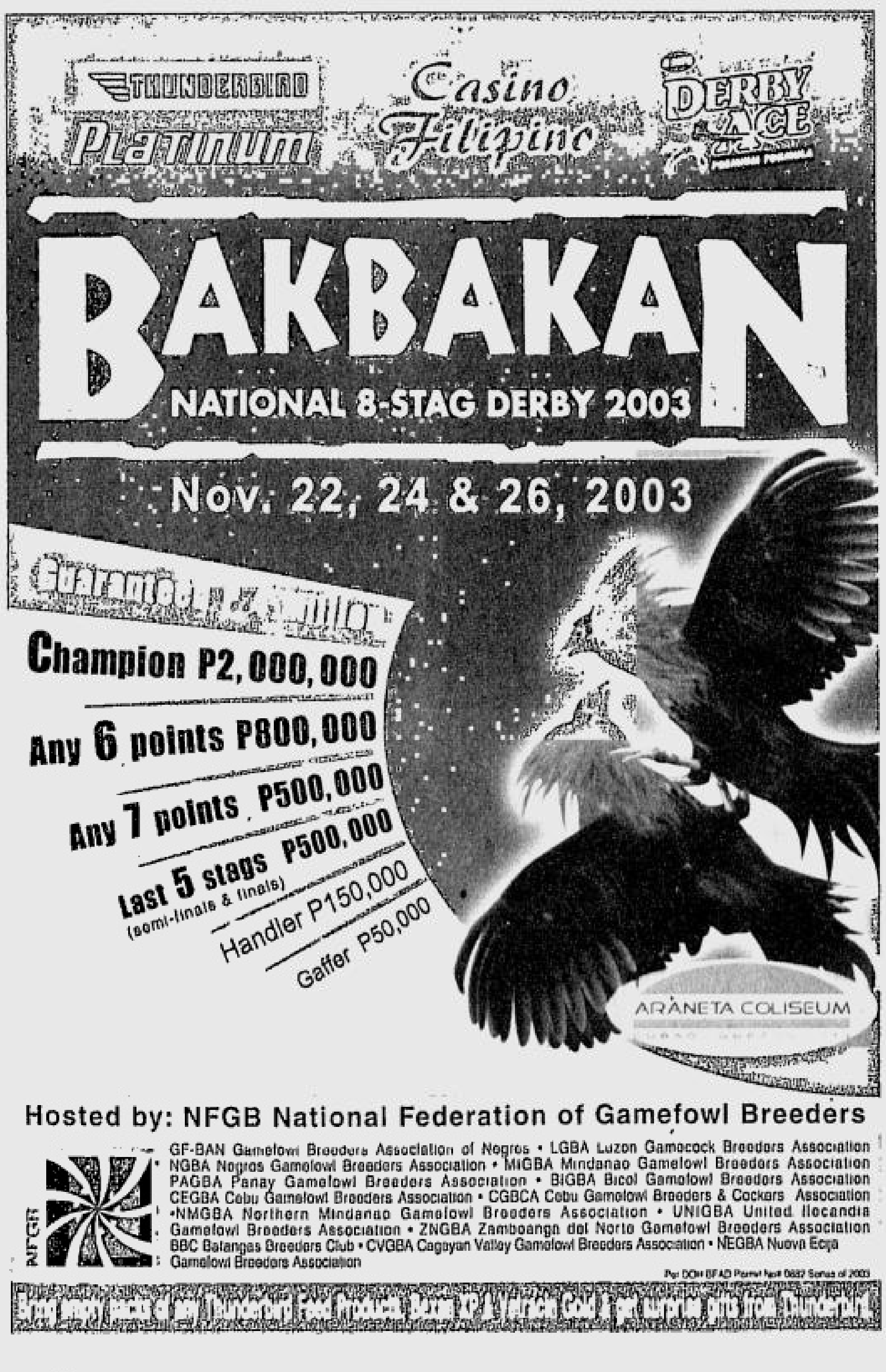

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Nov. 22, 24 & 26, 2003
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Any 6 points P800,000
Any 7 points P500,000
Last 5 stags P500,000 (semi-finals & finals)
Handler P150,000
Gaffer P50,000
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Hosted by: NFGB National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders
GF-BAN Gamefowl Breeders Association of Negros • LGBA Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association • NGBA Negros Gamefowl Breeders Association • MiGBA Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association • PAGBA Panay Gamefowl Breeders Association • BIGBA Bicol Gamefowl Breeders Association • CEGBA Cebu Gamefowl Breeders Association • CGBCA Cebu Gamefowl Breeders & Cockers Association • NMGBA Northern Mindanao Gamefowl Breeders Association • UNIGBA United Ilocandia Gamefowl Breeders Association • ZNGBA Zamboanga del Norte Gamefowl Breeders Association • BBC Batangas Breeders Club • CVGBA Cagayan Valley Gamefowl Breeders Association • NEGBA Nueva Ecija Gamefowl Breeders Association

HOOK of the week
Auto: LOADED
Tuason Racing.
The Asian Formula 3. C! Magazine.
Strap yourself in for piston-punching downloads that track motor trends from ignition to exhaust.
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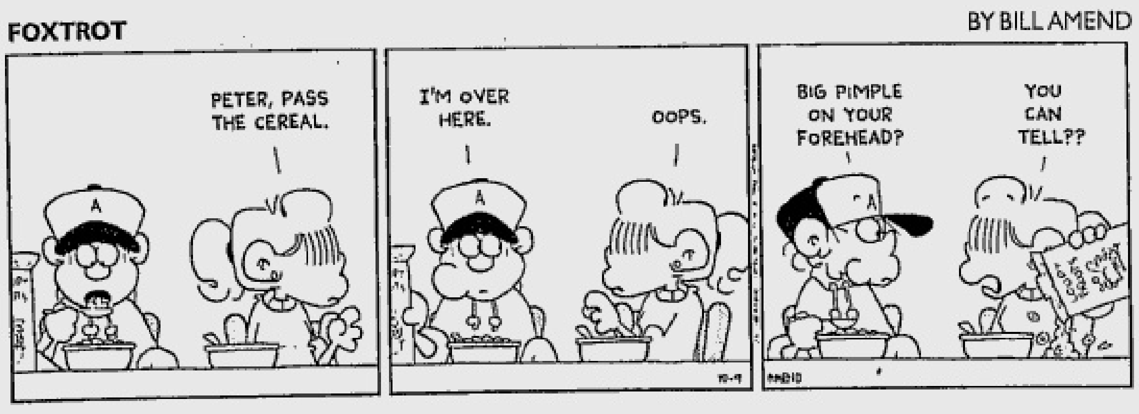
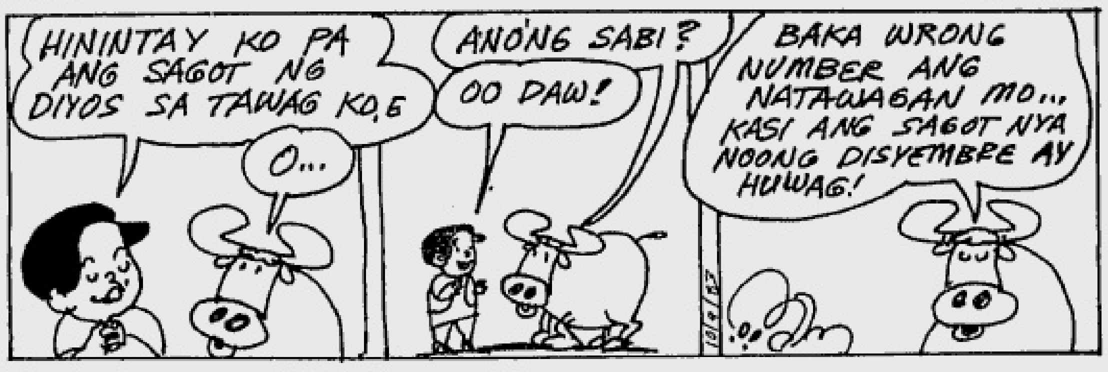
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


PETER, PASS THE CEREAL.
I'M OVER HERE.
OOPS.
BIG PIMPLE ON YOUR FOREHEAD?
YOU CAN TELL??

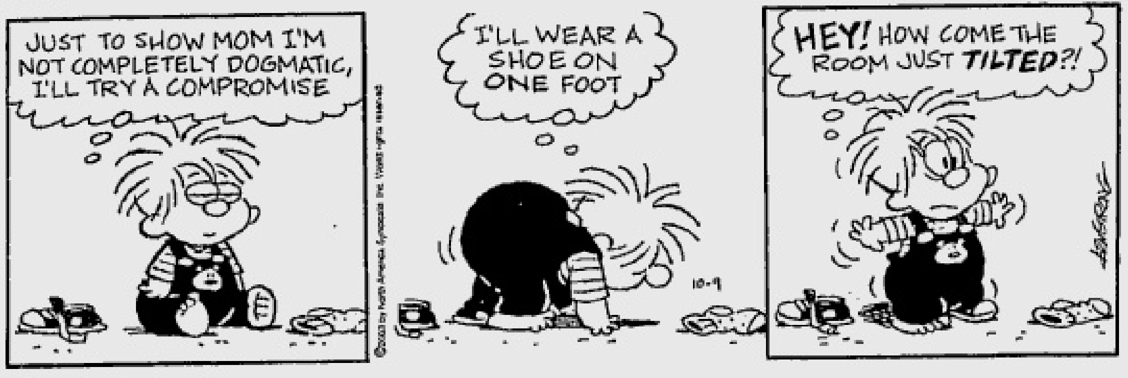
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HININTAY KO PA ANG SAGOT NG DIYOS SA TAWAG KO, E
O...
ANO'NG SABI?
OO DAW!
BAKA WRONG NUMBER ANG NATAWAGAN MO... KASI ANG SAGOT NYA NOONG DISYEMBRE AY HUWAG!

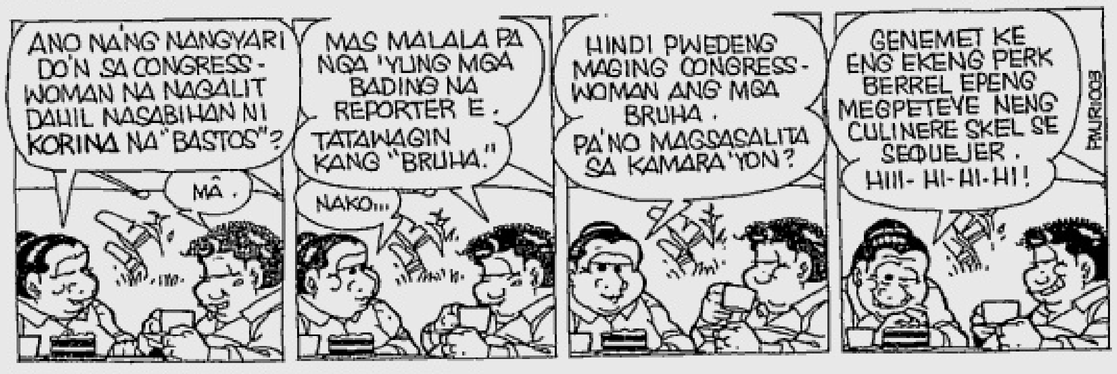
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


JUST TO SHOW MOM I'M NOT COMPLETELY DOGMATIC, I'LL TRY A COMPROMISE
I'LL WEAR A SHOE ON ONE FOOT
HEY! HOW COME THE ROOM JUST TILTED?!

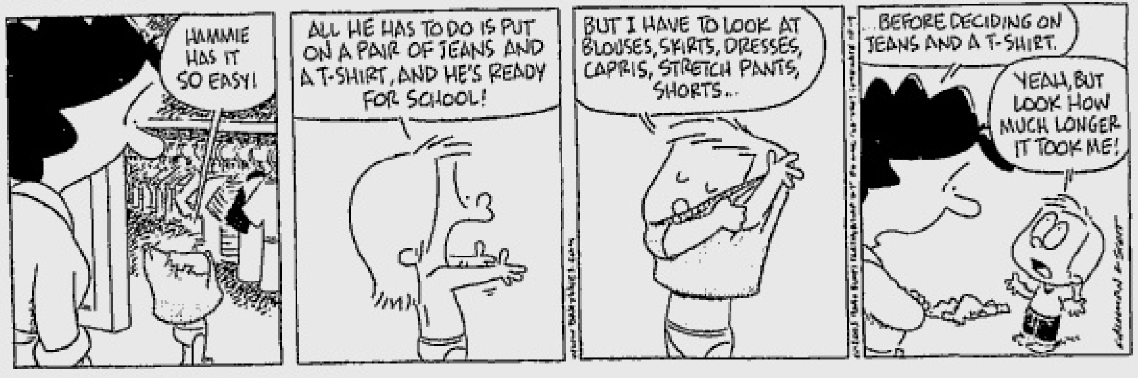
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO NANG NANGYARI DO'N SA CONGRESS-WOMAN NA NAGALIT DAHIL NASABIHAN NI KORINA NA "BASTOS"?
MA.
MAS MALALA PA NGA 'YUNG MGA BADING NA REPORTER E. TATAWAGIN KANG "BRUHA."
NAKO...
HINDI PWEDENG MAGING CONGRESS-WOMAN ANG MGA BRUHA. PA'NO MAGSASALITA SA KAMARA 'YON?
GENEMET KE ENG EKENG PERK BERREL EPENG MEGPETEYE NENG CULINERE SKEL SE SEQUEJER. HIII- HI-HI-HI!

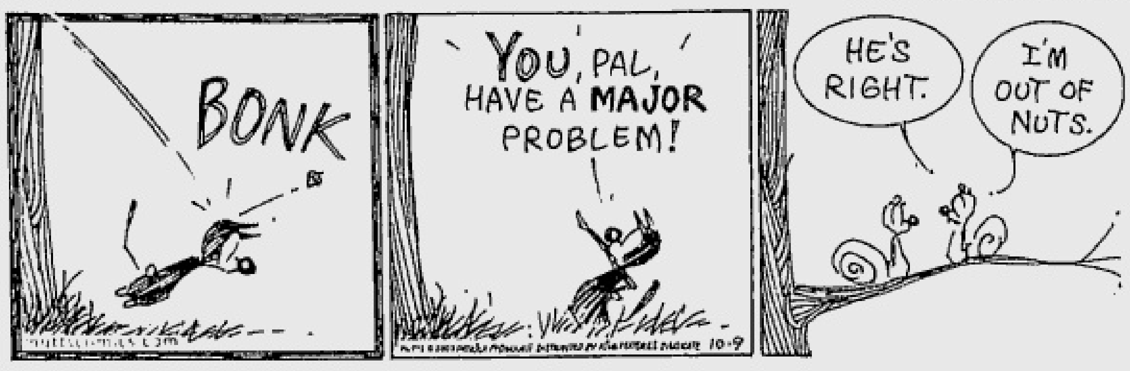
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HAMMIE HAS IT SO EASY!
ALL HE HAS TO DO IS PUT ON A PAIR OF JEANS AND A T-SHIRT, AND HE'S READY FOR SCHOOL!
BUT I HAVE TO LOOK AT BLOUSES, SKIRTS, DRESSES, CAPRIS, STRETCH PANTS, SHORTS...
...BEFORE DECIDING ON JEANS AND A T-SHIRT.
YEAH, BUT LOOK HOW MUCH LONGER IT TOOK ME!

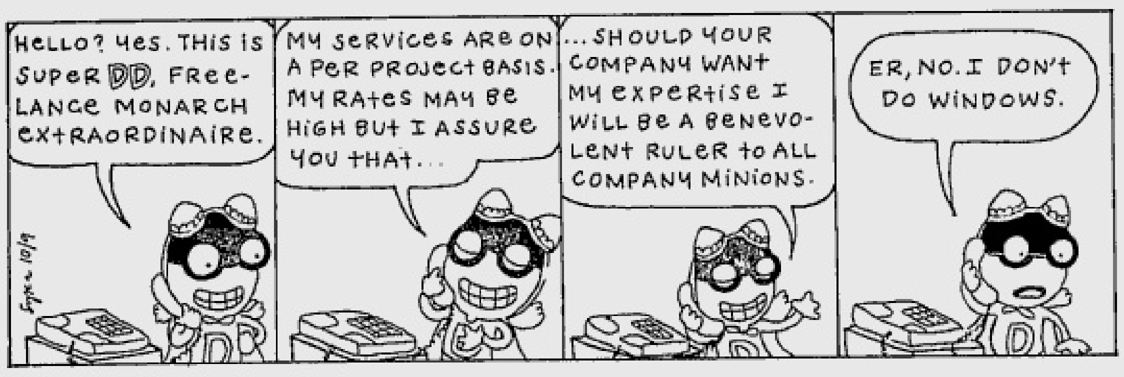
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BONK
YOU, PAL, HAVE A MAJOR PROBLEM!
HE'S RIGHT.
I'M OUT OF NUTS.

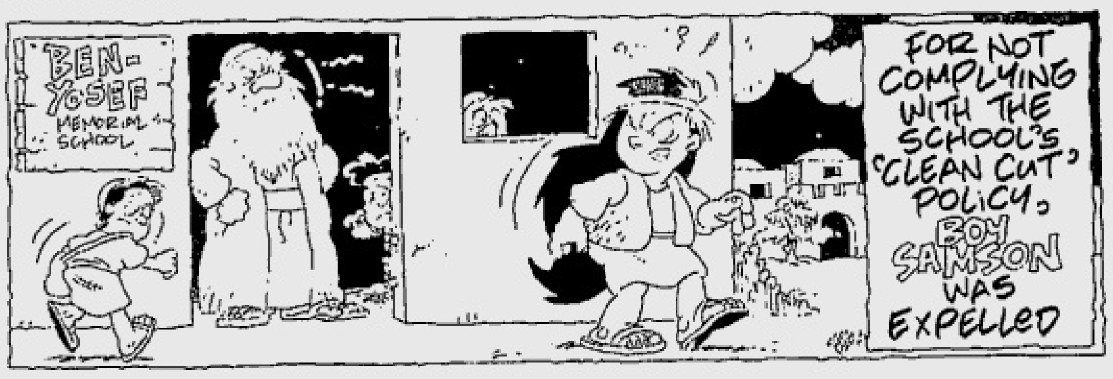
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HELLO? YES. THIS IS SUPER DD, FREE-LANCE MONARCH EXTRAORDINAIRE.
MY SERVICES ARE ON A PER PROJECT BASIS. MY RATES MAY BE HIGH BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT...
...SHOULD YOUR COMPANY WANT MY EXPERTISE I WILL BE A BENEVO-LENT RULER TO ALL COMPANY MINIONS.
ER, NO. I DON'T DO WINDOWS.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


BEN-YOSEF MEMORIAL SCHOOL
FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH THE SCHOOL'S 'CLEAN CUT' POLICY, BOY SAMSON WAS EXPELLED

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You can do so many things so well that you don't know what you want to be when you grow up. You are a keen observer of the human condition, and your observations often inspire others. Many of you pursue artistic careers. Your closest relationships (including marriage) are favored this year. All your social interactions will shine!
Birthdate of: Jackson Browne, composer; John Lennon, musician; Scott Bakula, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): A planetary shift that occurs today brings you advantages from others in the next month. This is an excellent time to apply for a loan or mortgage.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): All your partnerships will improve enormously in the next four to six weeks. You find it easy to enjoy the company of others. Others want to be with you as well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Everything at work seems to improve now and in the month ahead. Co-workers are more cooperative. Opportunities to improve your job will arise.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Everything having to do with love, romance, vacations, parties and fun times gets a lovely boost for the next six weeks. Playful activities with children will delight.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your focus turns to home and family now, because you want to make things more attractive and more agreeable for everyone. In the month ahead, decorating ideas excite you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): As fair Venus shifts signs today, it helps you to become aware of how much love there is in your daily life. Relations with siblings are especially meaningful for the next month.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Expect increased opportunities to earn money as well as more opportunities to spend it. Shopping for yourself and for loved ones will please you now and in the next month.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Fair Venus has just moved into your sign today. This makes you look more attractive to everyone, even if you don't do anything different. It also makes you more charming and patient with others.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Because this is a busy social time for you, any time that you can sneak away for some solitude—just for you—will be rewarding. You need this to re-energize and restore yourself.

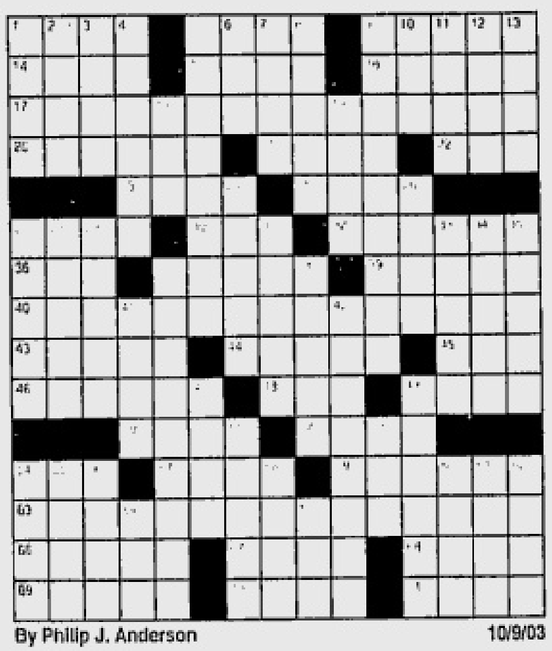
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Good times with friends bless you for the next several weeks. Accept all invitations. Extend invitations to others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Others see you in an unusually favorable light. Without any extra effort on your part, people are impressed by you for the next month!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Grab any opportunity to travel or advance your education and training. Excellent opportunities to improve your skills and your knowledge of the world will come your way now.

DAILY CROSSWORD

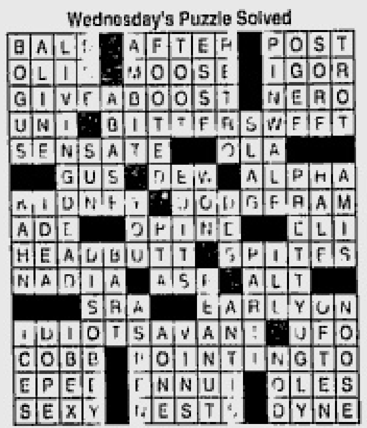
ACROSS
1 Combustible material
5 U.S. leader
9 Holly Hunter film, with "The"
14 Impulse
15 Comic Chris
16 Element No. 86
17 Plumbing advice?
20 Matters in dispute
21 Oil cartel's letters
22 Mayday!
23 All but a few
25 Satisfy fully
27 NASCAR driver Yarborough
30 Mil. rank
32 Dreary
36 Reverent wonder
37 Evita or Juan
39 Africa's largest city
40 Plumbing advice?
43 Met highlights
44 Exemplar of slowness
45 Stoolie
46 Soup legume
48 RR stop
49 Fair
50 Fr. religious figs.
52 Drying kiln
54 Alley prowler
57 Nerve network
59 Capital of Niger
63 Plumbing advice?
66 Drinking vessel
67 Actress Bancroft
68 Biographer of Henry James
69 Military installations
70 Teak-exporting country
71 Spread slowly



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
10/9/03

DOWN
1 Japanese peak
2 "Topaz" author
3 Chicken products
4 Bean or pea
5 Printers
6 Poppycock!
7 Canyon reply
8 Straw beehives
9 Level-headed
10 Writer Fleming
11 Contributes
12 __ contendere
13 Individuals
18 Name for a lion
19 Foremost position
24 Queen of Hearts output
26 Jacob's brother
27 Secret group
28 Mindful
29 Bolshevik leader
31 Artist Jasper
33 Chip starter?
34 Regions
35 State-run gambling
37 Electrons' antiparticles
38 Rad!
41 Gangsters' heaters
42 Backs with dollars
47 Salacious stare
49 Declares
51 Baseball theft?
53 Command to Fido
54 Zodiac connection
55 Regarding
56 Golf gadgets
58 Best of Hollywood
60 Created
61 Dueling sword
62 Sharp cry
64 Cambridge sch.
65 Numero __

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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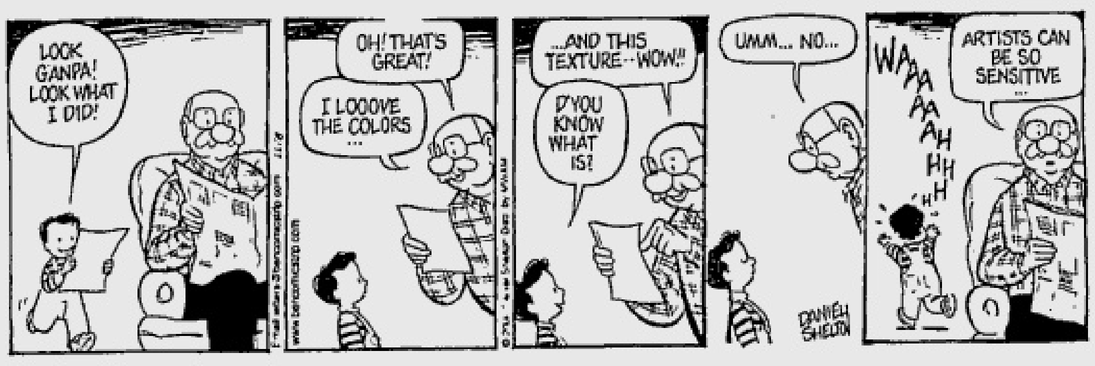
10/8/03

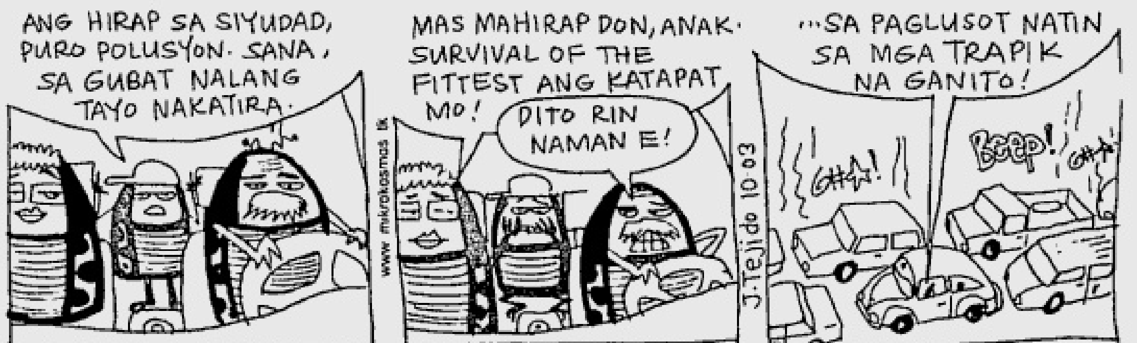
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LOOK GANPA! LOOK WHAT I DID!
OH! THAT'S GREAT!
I LOOOVE THE COLORS...
...AND THIS TEXTURE···WOW!!
D'YOU KNOW WHAT IS?
UMM... NO...
WAAAAAAHHHH
ARTISTS CAN BE SO SENSITIVE...

MIKROKOSMOS

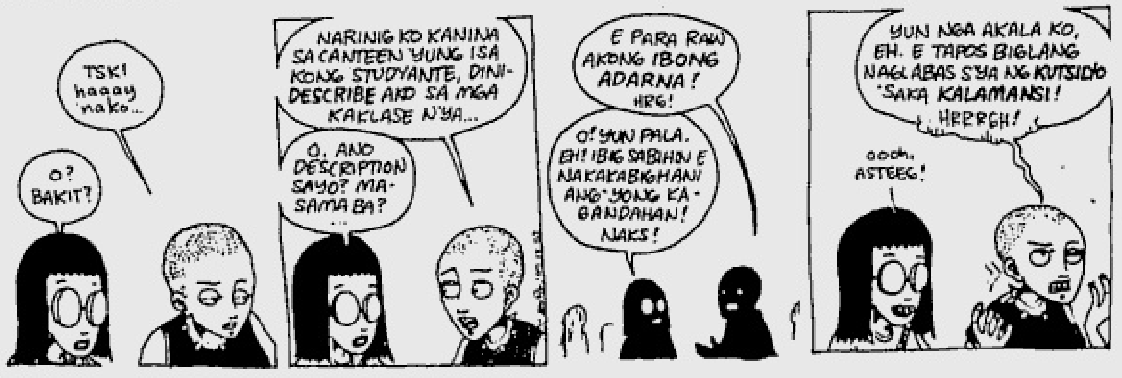
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG HIRAP SA SIYUDAD, PURO POLUSYON. SANA, SA GUBAT NALANG TAYO NAKATIRA.
MAS MAHIRAP DON, ANAK. SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST ANG KATAPAT MO!
DITO RIN NAMAN E!
...SA PAGLUSOT NATIN SA MGA TRAPIK NA GANITO!
GHA!
BEEP!
GHA!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J.Tejido 10.03

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

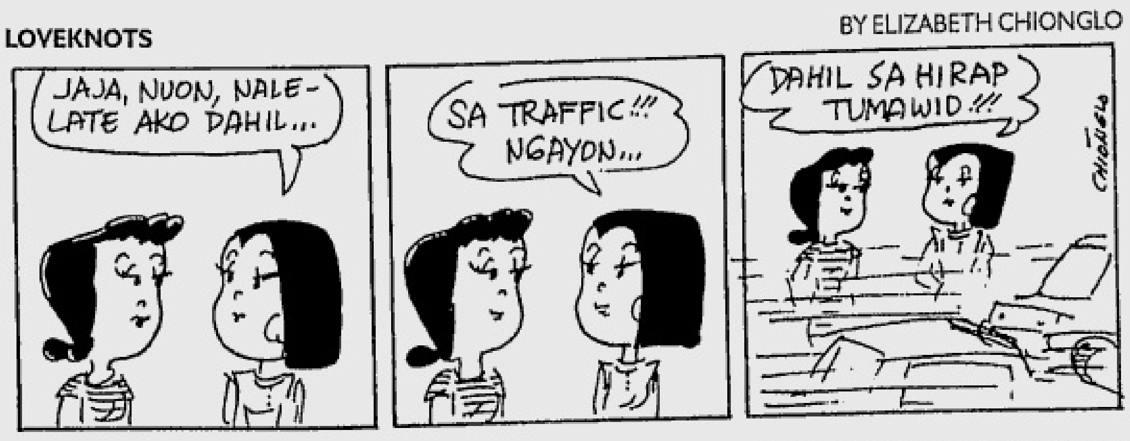
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O? BAKIT?
TSK! haaay nako...
NARINIG KO KANINA SA CANTEEN YUNG ISA KONG STUDYANTE, DINI-DESCRIBE AKO SA MGA KAKLASE N'YA...
O, ANO DESCRIPTION SAYO? MA-SAMA BA?
E PARA RAW AKONG IBONG ADARNA! HRG!
O! YUN PALA. EH! IBIG SABIHIN E NAKAKABIGHANI ANG 'YONG KA-GANDAHAN! NAKS!
YUN NGA AKALA KO, EH. E TAPOS BIGLANG NAGLABAS S'YA NG KUTSILYO 'SAKA KALAMANSI! HRRRGH!
oooh, ASTEEG!

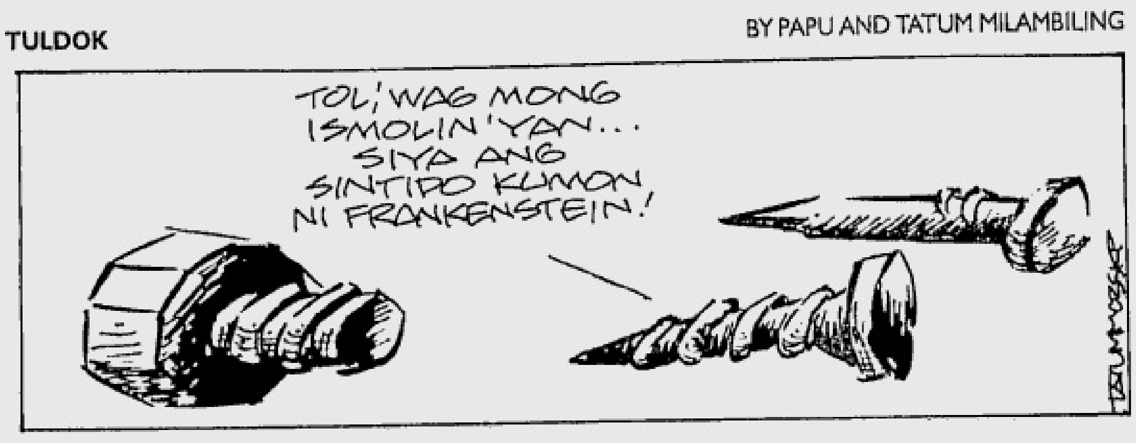
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, NUON, NALE-LATE AKO DAHIL...
SA TRAFFIC!!! NGAYON...
DAHIL SA HIRAP TUMAWID!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, WAG MONG ISMOLIN 'YAN... SIYA ANG SINTIDO KUMON NI FRANKENSTEIN!

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

Radio talent, show biz writer Julie Fe is dead

By Marinel R. Cruz

WELL-LOVED veteran broadcaster and writer Julie Fe Navarro died a few hours after she prayed the Holy Rosary with her five children in her hospital room on Tuesday night at the Makati Medical Center.

Navarro, popularly known in show biz circles as Julie Fe, died of multiple organ failure triggered by cancer of the endometrium, the lining of the uterus, according to her daughter Sunshine.

Julie Fe would have been 62 on Nov. 1.

She was diagnosed with cancer of the uterus in January 2002. After undergoing three chemotherapy sessions last year, she finally underwent total hysterectomy or removal of the uterus in May of that year.

"My mom recovered pretty well after her operation," said Sunshine, a law graduate.

Throughout her illness, Julie Fe, a known cheerful woman, never lost her sense of humor.

"She always said that God was good to her because He didn't let her hair fall off when she was undergoing chemotherapy sessions," Sunshine told INQUIRER Entertainment last Wednesday, the day after Julie Fe passed away. "But she also said having cancer was like having colds, *bumabalik kapag hindi iniingatan*."

Last summer, Julie Fe complained of severe stomach pain. Her former doctor said the pain might have been the after-effect of radiation since Julie Fe's mammogram or breast X-ray and pap smear showed no sign of recurrence of the cancer, said Sunshine.

Julie Fe was the host of the show biz radio program "Show Biz with Julie Fe," every Sunday between 1 and 2:30 p.m. on dzRH.

NAVARRO, before cancer started to weaken her

She was also the director of "Matudnila," the longest-running soap opera on dzRH.

She was also a respected radio drama talent, who could "act" with her very versatile voice. She played different radio characters, from little children to old women, even in her younger days.

She was entertainment editor of People's Tonight, where she also wrote her "Surfer" column, until June 2003 when she resigned from the Journal Group of Companies.

Julie Fe had also played small roles in some movies.

Sunshine said her mother became depressed after her resignation, but she continued to write and to host her radio show. Julie Fe had also contributed some feature stories in INQUIRER Entertainment earlier this year.

Even when she was already in the hospital, Julie Fe would still go on the air on her radio program and would write her articles.

Last August, Navarro was confined at the St. Luke's Medical due to severe loss of appetite. Sunshine said her mother would always vomit.

Doctors found a tumor in Julie Fe's small intestine.

"Her doctors required six chemotherapy sessions, but we could not afford the chemotherapy, which cost about P40,000 per session," said Sunshine.

Last Thursday, Julie Fe's children brought her to the Makati Medical Center, where doctors told them her cancer was in its terminal stage.

"Her doctors said they would try their best to cure her," said Sunshine. "They did not want us to lose hope.

"But they also said it was no use prolonging her pain," the daughter added.

Julie Fe's remains lie in state in Chapel C of the Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, and will be cremated on Sunday, 2 p.m., at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, also in Quezon City.

Julie Fe is survived by her mother Julia, brothers Felipe Jr., Jeremy and Hamilton, children Paul, Sweetheart, Sunshine, Sugar and Mike.

Julie Fe earlier also directed other programs for Manila Broadcasting Co., like Cecile Guidote-Alvarez's "Radyo Balintataw," Gina de Venecia's "Pira-Pirasong Pangarap" and "Text Love."

In the early '80s, she hosted the afternoon show biz program "Sine Silip" with the late entertainment writer Oskee Salazar.

Tarantino's new movie features marathon bloodletting

NEW YORK—Call it part homage, part parody, but brace yourself for nonstop severed feet, arms, heads, hatchets in foreheads and a sea of blood in Quentin Tarantino's latest movie, "Kill Bill."

The martial arts extravaganza from writer/director Tarantino, who shot to fame with gritty, violent films like "Reservoir Dogs" (1992) and "Pulp Fiction" (1994), is his first movie in six years.

Tarantino sees "Kill Bill" as a salute to the martial arts movies of his youth and his notion of "girl power." It stars Uma Thurman as a female assassin seeking revenge on an elite band of assassins that slaughtered her wedding party and gave her up for dead. *Reuters*

Outcats, naturally inborn, and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Some people have been accusing you of being *bastos* because they say you don't show respect for the older people you fight against—after all, they're older.

Guest: No, that's unfair, I beg to disagree! Respectable *ako sa mga nakakatanda sa akin*!

(That's not what "respectable" means!)

* * *

Host: Why do you like living in the province, not in Metro Manila?

Guest: For a number of reasons combined—for example, I like the wind in the province, *nakalamig*, and yet *may* soil!

(Duh!)

* * *

Host: If there's one thing you'd like to change about life in the Philippines, what would it be?

Guest: The election system!

Host: Oh? Why that, in particular?

Guest: I want to change the election system because I want the candidates to be strong in meeting the challenges facing them.

(*Isa ka pa.*)

* * *

Host: Who's your favorite comic strip character?

Guest: Superman!

Host: Why did you choose him?

Guest: *Dahil siya ay naging isang* super-*ordinaryo na tao*!

(*Ay,* super-*ordinaryo si* Superman?)

OUTCATS/ A25

Seryoso po kami...

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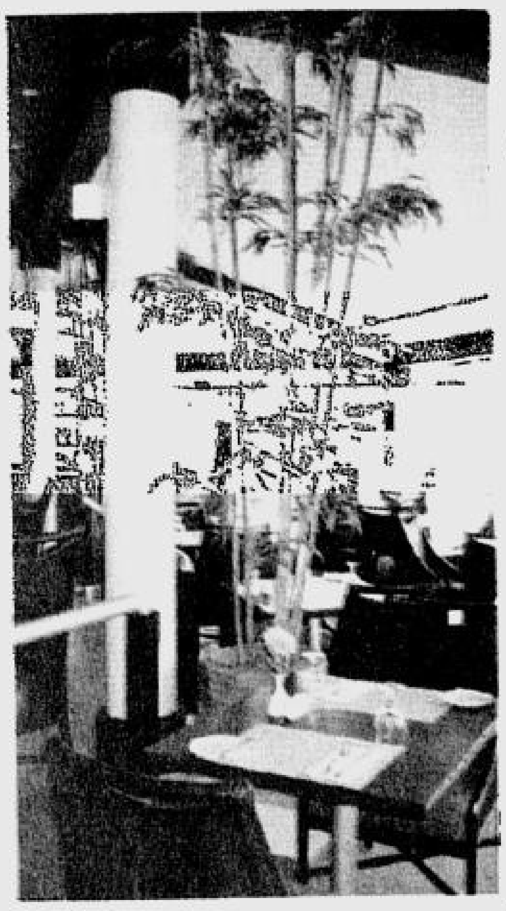

Alternative meeting venue on the Ridge

TAAL Vista Hotel, preferred for its ideal location and accessibility, creates the "Chairman's Package" to offer convention and meeting organizers the flexibility in holding events amidst the breathtaking Taal Lake and Volcano.

The "Chairman's Package" includes overnight stay in a deluxe room, set lunch and set dinner for attendees less than 30 persons (a buffet lunch and dinner is prepared for attendees of more that 30 persons), AM and PM snacks, and breakfast. Conference amenities include whole day use of the meeting room, complimentary use of the audio equipment, overhead projector, whiteboard and flipchart, use of VCD, paper and pencils, free flowing coffee and tea throughout the function's duration, and even free candy mints. As an added privilege, a welcome cocktail will be prepared to entertain guests and colleagues (one hour welcome reception/cocktail upon arrival, beverages not included). This limited offer is priced at only P4,400 net/ person (single occupancy) and P3,000 net/person (twin sharing occupancy) and is valid until Dec. 15.

Dubbed as the new meetings, incentives and conventions destination in Tagaytay, Taal Vista Hotel is the ideal venue for company events with its well-equipped meeting facilities and the new Bougainvillea Pavilion that accommodates up to 250 persons. The hotel currently has 72 exquisite guestrooms. Upon completion, it will have 150 rooms with added F&B outlets and specialty restaurants, swimming pool and a soothing spa. With the hotel's upgrades, more amenities and facilities, and a team excellently trained and managed by the FilBarcelo Group, expect to experience renewed charm, hospitality and efficient service from Taal Vista Hotel.

For inquiries and reservations on the "Chairman's Package," call its Manila sales office at 830-2373 and 867-1159. You can also visit its website at www.barcelo-asia.com.

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Hotel Supreme
113 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-2011 to 18/ Fax. (074) 442-2855

Skyrise Hotel
18 Dominican Road, Baguio City
Tel (074) 445-6834 to 36 /fax (074) 443-3897

The Peninsula Manila Hotel
Cor. Ayala Ave. & Makati Ave., Makati City
Tel. 810-3456/ Fax 815-4825

Mandarin Oriental Manila
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Tel. 750-8888
www.mandarinoriental.com

The Bellevue Manila
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Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
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Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
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www.waterfronthotels.net

Royal Mandaya Hotel
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Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Travel Hotel
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Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Cooyeesan Hotel Plaza
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Fax. (074) 447-0494

Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
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Taal Vista Hotel
Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel (046) 413-1000/fax. (046) 413-1225

For Feedback and inquiries, call
899-4426 or 897-8808 loc 209

Oktoberfest for real at Camp John Hay

FEAST on traditional German bratwurst, suckling pig, knodel, smoked porkloin, sauerkraut, dumplings, pretzels, apples and kirsch torte as the summer capital, Baguio City, celebrates the biggest Oktoberfest in the country on Oct 18.

Sing, dance and swing all night long to the sound of Robert Birnbreier's authentic Bavarian Band, flown in straight from Germany by Lufthansa, when you join the traditional German beer festival in Baguio City's newest party place, the Camp John Hay Trade and Cultural Center (also an ideal venue for convention or social events).

Fun awaits everyone with fabulous raffle prizes, including Manila-Bangkok-Manila round trip tickets for two, courtesy of Lufthansa.

You can experience this authentic Oktoberfest by staying at Camp John Hay Manor Hotel, which offers a special package at P2,500 per person, inclusive of an Oktoberfest dinner ticket, buffet breakfast and one night hotel accommodation on Oct. 18 and 19. The Oktoberfest is open to everyone, and dinner tickets are available at P750 per person.

The Oktoberfest is just one of the exciting activities hosted by Camp John Hay Manor Hotel, as it sizzles again this Nov. 19 to 22 with the Ad Congress, which would bring to the summer capital the brightest stars of the media and advertising industries.

For reservation and inquiries, call Camp John Hay Manor Hotel at (074) 446-0231 to 50, telefax (074) 445-0420, or e-mail at cjh-manor@skyinet.net Advance ticket sales are available at the hotel's front desk and admission starts at 7 p.m. on Oct. 18.

The hotel's Manila office at Unit 1107-A, 11/F West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Building, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, may also be reached at 687-6524 and fax 687-6607.

The Bellevue Hotel launches premier lifestyle club

THE BELLEVUE Hotel, the first full-service business hotel south of Metro Manila, successfully launched Alabang's premier lifestyle club, the "Alabang's Finest", in an exciting cocktail party featuring prominent names in Manila's high society.

Privileged residents and top executives in the south of Metro Manila who have made the Bellevue Hotel their chosen social and business destination have the distinct privilege of being members of "Alabang's Finest". The by-invitation-only club gives these select members the rare privilege of participating in exclusive Bellevue events such as wine tastings, business forums, fashion shows, preview sales and special discounts on upscale brands, among others.

THE BELLEVUE Hotel's general manager Cyndy Tan-Jarabata with Rustan's Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena and Mega's Sari-Yap.

Partnerships with Rustan's and Lifestyle Asia also featured a private viewing of Rustan's prestige brands like Cartier, Tiffany & Co., Dunhill, Chopard, Pequignet, Piaget, Vacheron Constantin, Mikimoto, Carrera y Carrera, Aaron Basha, Quadrillon, G. Verdi, Ermenegildo Zegna, Givenchy, Mont Blanc, Nina Ricci, Fendi, Faconnable and Metropolitan Museum of Arts (New York). Free copies of Lifestyle Asia's latest issues were given away as well as premium raffle prizes.

"Alabang's Finest" is a tribute from the people of Alabang to the people of Alabang. We should no longer be known as 'Alabangers' or 'southerners,' but as Alabang's Finest. Now, one no longer has to go to Makati to enjoy distinct privileges because it's all offered here at The Bellevue," explains Cyndy Tan-Jarabata, The Bellevue Hotel's general manager.

"Alabang's Finest" shows Bellevue's commitment to give the best life has to offer. With its new catchphrase "Make it Alabang. Make it Bellevue," it promises to be the new social and business hub in the metropolis.

Because of its warm, intimate and home-like atmosphere, The Bellevue Hotel is fast becoming the destination of choice in the southern Metro Manila area. It boasts of 222 deluxe and suite rooms, modern communications and banquet facilities, luxurious spa treatments, the latest gym equipment and services, Jacuzzi and infinity pool, an Asian specialty restaurant and an entertainment center with a music lounge on its topmost floor, main and sports bar, among others. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Visit CalAsian Nation at Bocarinos

THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel's creative continental restaurant Bocarinos invites diners to a gastronomic tour with "CalAsian Nation" offered this October.

Enjoy a fusion of California and Asian cuisine as prepared by California native Executive Chef Greg Garnes available in the restaurants daily specials, appetizers and dessert buffets, for lunch and dinner. Sample innovative creations such as Oysters with Wasabi Gelee, Lamb "Osso Bucco" Egg Rolls, Ranch Chicken with Sweet Shoyu Sauce, Pecan Crusted Rack of Lamb with Thai Noodles, Green Tea Crème Brulee, among other mouth-watering selections.

Bocarinos is open 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays. For reservations, call 811-6888 extension 3318.

Celebrate life at Astoria Plaza

SPECIAL occasions such as weddings, debuts, baptismals and other significant gatherings deserve only the best. Make Astoria Plaza a part of your special moments.

Astoria Plaza offers special banquet packages for discriminating tastes at very affordable prices. Have a grand wedding reception, a stylish debut, a modish baptismal party, or an exciting kiddie party at very reasonable prices starting at P30,000. Special packages are good for 50 people with a choice of buffet lunch or dinner, bottomless iced tea, suite accommodations, complete banquet amenities and free parking. Rates are subject to service charge and government taxes.

Personalized service, excellent facilities, the finest banquet dishes and the best value for your money... All of these and more make your parties and special gatherings memorable. Love and live life to the fullest! Celebrate at Astoria Plaza!

The Astoria Plaza is conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City and is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels & Resorts. For your banquet inquiries and requirements, call 687-1111 local 8013 and look for the banquet sales officer.

Outcats, naturally inborn, and other boob-tube booboos

From page A23

Host: Do you think beauty contests should allow contestants who have had plastic surgery?

Guest: No, they should not.

Host: Would you like to explain why?

Guest: Well, because it's unfair to those who are naturally-inborn!

(*Ay*, naturally inborn!)

* * *

Host: What do you like about being a sexy star?

Guest: *Ang daming* papa!

Host: OK, what don't you like about being a sexy star?

Guest: The way some people look at us and act, like we are outcats!

(Outcats—as opposed to incats?)

* * *

Host: How often do you have bleaching treatment for your skin?

Guest: Twice a month, or once every two months.

(Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: Would you like to welcome our next guest?

Co-host: With honor! Ladies and gentlemen, a warm welcome of applause!

(And you're supposed to be a program host?!)

> 'Ladies and gentlemen, a warm welcome of applause!'

* * *

Host: What do you wish for your successor, the new beauty queen?

Guest: For her, I wish a footful reign.

(*Ay*, footful reign!)

After Eve

The new band After Eve is cashing in on the current acoustic trend in music. It's composed of singer-actress Champagne Morales, Charlotte Salandanan and Francesca Borromeo, plus *kahonista* Eleanore Floresca and gui-

OUTCATS/ A26

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PILYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUT
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PILYA
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KISKISAN
CINEMA-2	KATAS
CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEDALLION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TREK
CINEMA-6	TAKE MY BODY
CINEMA-7	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-8	JASON VS. FREDDY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDINH
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-1	MEDALLION
CINEMA-2	DARK WATER
CINEMA-4	[illegible]

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
Ali 2	PILYA
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
Ali 5	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
Ali 6	HOW TO DEAL
Ali 7	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

ARANETA COLISEUM	
OCT 10	OGIE ALCASID CONCERT
OCT 12	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. PUREFOODS
OCT 13	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 15	NCA 7-STAG DERBY
OCT 16	UAAP / NCCA ALL STAR GAME

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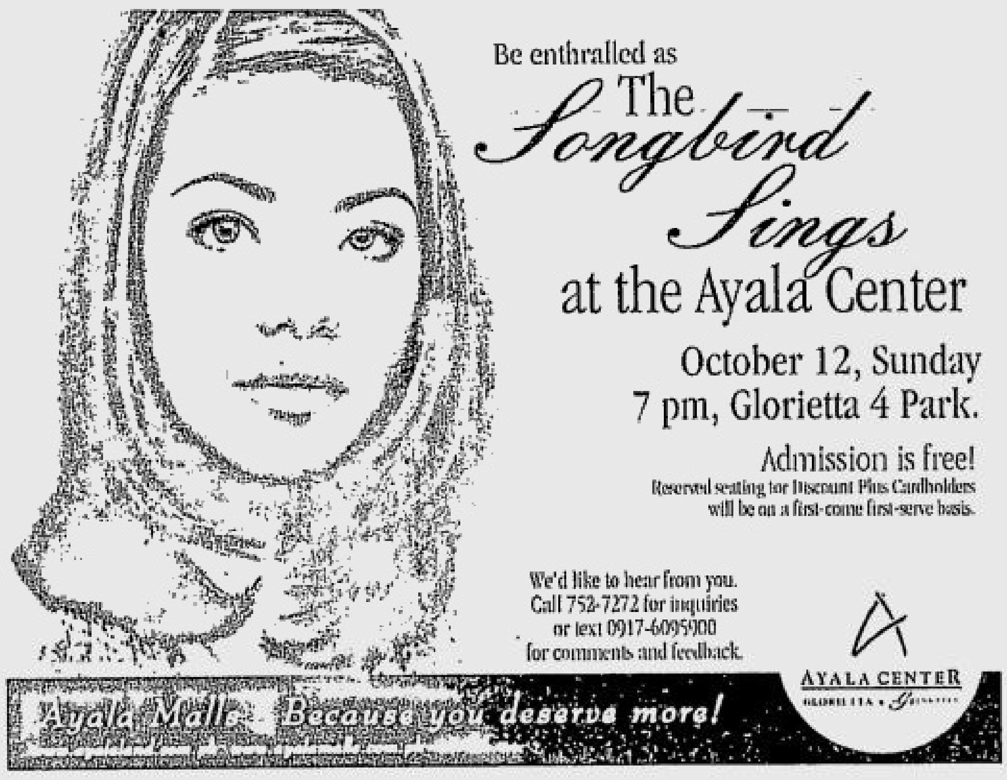

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VAMPIRES vs. WEREWOLVES...
only the strongest will survive.
Watch "UNDERWORLD" in your favorite theaters & be among the first to see the worldwide trailer launch of "LOTR 3: RETURN OF THE KING".
KATE BECKINSALE
SCOTT SPEEDMAN
UNDERWORLD

...sa aming komedi!

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ABS-CBN TELEVISION 50 YEARS

Outcats...

From page A25

tarist Edilbert Luyon.

Champagne has just completed her Psychology studies at the De La Salle University. Charlotte and Francesca have both done a lot of musical theater.

After Eve was launched at Merk's Bar. The group performs regularly at Ratsky's Tomas Morato, and will sing at Merk's starting this November. Call Alex at 721-0801.

'Crying Ladies'

The word's out that viewers will see a "new" Sharon Cuneta in her next film, "Crying Ladies," a prospective Metro filmfest entry produced by Tony Gloria's Unitel. Mark Meily's film tells the stories of three of the last professional mourners in Manila's Chinatown. The other "crying ladies" are Hilda Koronel and Angel Aquino.

It's a radically different role for Sharon, who plays a hustler and gambler who loses custody of her son when she goes to jail. Sharon Cuneta as a convict? *This* we've got to see.

Hilda plays an ex-starlet dreaming of a comeback—which is why she accepts a mourner's job, to prove she can still act! And Angel regards the job as an act of charity to atone for the sin of going to bed with her friend's husband.

Other cast members include Ricky Davao, Eric Quizon, Raymond Bagatsing, and child actor Julio Pacheco as Sharon's beloved son.

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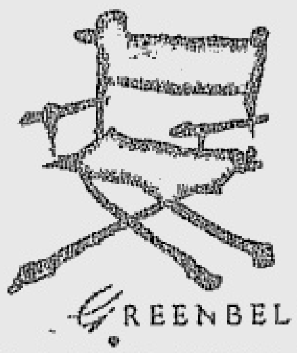


GREENBELT mycinema

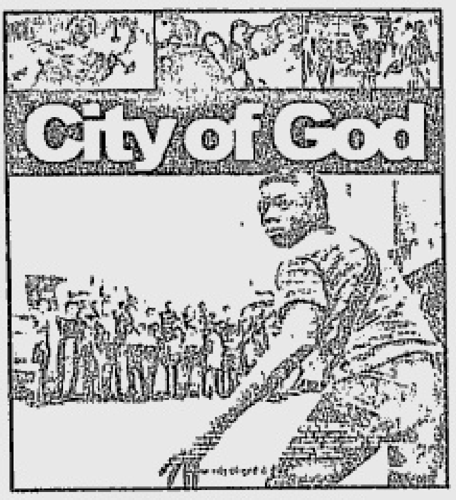
ALL DIGITAL SOUND
AYALA CINEMAS
PRESENTS

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 UNDERWORLD	1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	ArtFilm 1 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 11 50 1 50 3 50 7 50 9 50	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 UNDERWORLD 1 40 4 [illegible] 6 30 8 55 11 20	THX 1 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	2 HOW TO DEAL	2 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS 12 00 2 25 4 50 7 30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING [illegible]	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDERWORLD 12 50 3 15 5 40 8 05 10 30	LANI MISALUCHA Oct. 10 & 11, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 BASIC 1 50 4 05 6 10 8 20 10 30	3 UNDERWORLD
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CITY OF GOD 1 30 4 00 6 30 9 00 11 30	4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
	5 CITY OF GOD		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HOW TO DEAL [illegible]	5 HOW TO DEAL
	6 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING			
	7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO			

For sreening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS



MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18

WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS SLUM: Rio de Janeiro's "CITY OF GOD"

A place where combat photographers fear to tread, where police rarely go, and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20.

This is the true story of a young man who grew up on these streets and whose ambition to become a photographer is our window into his world and ultimately may be his only way out.

"Scorching and powerful!
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— Mark Caro, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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— Nev Pierce, BBC

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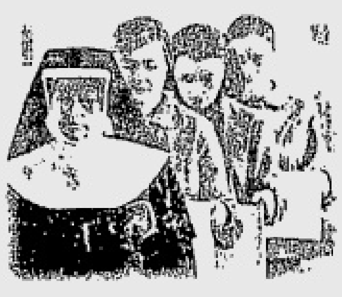
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS



The film, which won the Golden Lion at Venice & Discovery Award at the Toronto Film Festival, is based on the real-life story of thousands of young women who, because they were rootless or suspected of dallying with men, were into hard labor at convents, literally washing away their sins for the Irish Catholic Church. The film's electrifying opening sequences shows three protagonists falling into the clutches of the Sisters of Mercy. There's Margaret, raped by her cousin at a wedding. Rose who gives birth to an illegitimate child; and gorgeous, sultry Bernadette whose only crime is flirting with boys

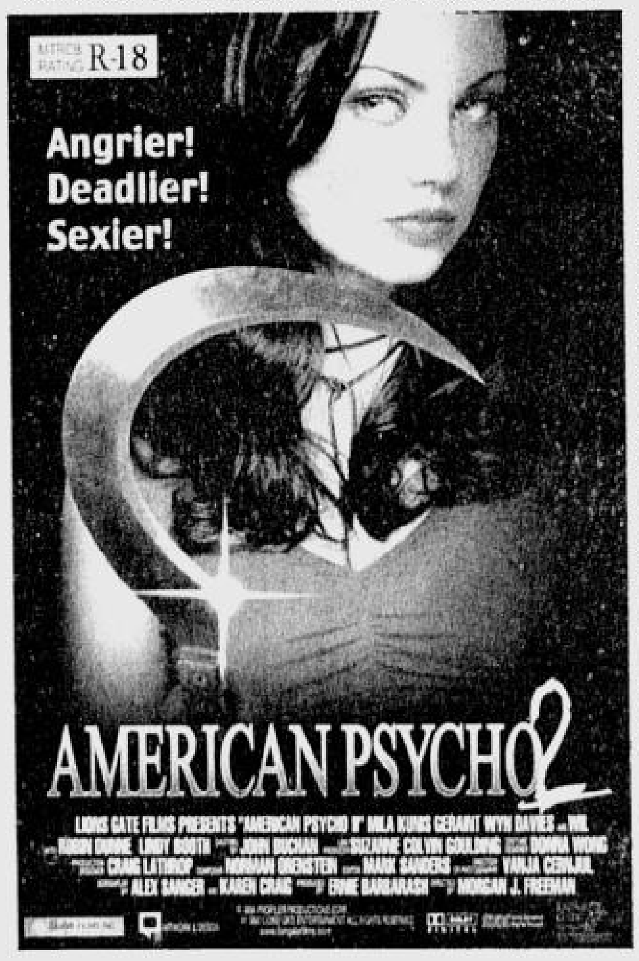
A truly fresh, strong & inspiring masterpiece by acclaimed Scottish director Peter Mullan

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

NOKIA Solar FILMS INC. INQUIRER

NOW SHOWING Exclusively at SM MAGAMALL SM MANILA GLORIETTA 4, ROBINNSON-ERMITA ROBINSON GALLERIA

PURE EVIL CHOOSES NO GENDER, BUT WHEN A YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL WOMAN BECOMES ONE... SEX IS THE MAIN WEAPON FOR BIZARRE KILLINGS!!



MTRCB RATING R-18
Angrier!
Deadlier!
Sexier!
AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
LIONS GATE FILMS PRESENTS "AMERICAN PSYCHO II" MILA KUNIS GERAINT WYN DAVIES WIL
ROBIN DUNNE LINDY BOOTH JOHN BUCHAN SUZANNE COLVIN GOULDING DONNA WONG
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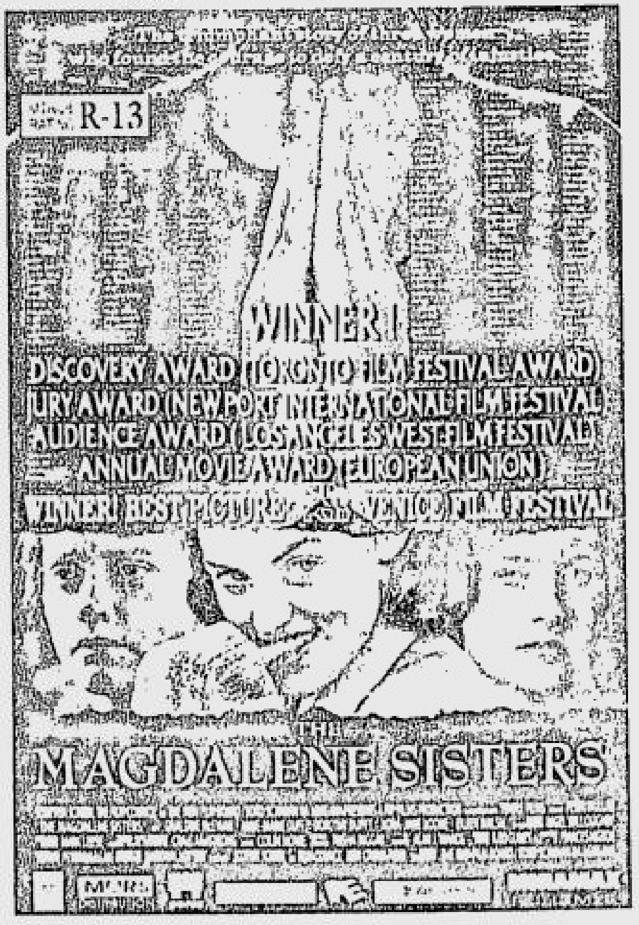
BASED ON TRUE STORY



R-13
WINNER!
DISCOVERY AWARD (TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL AWARD)
JURY AWARD (NEWPORT INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL)
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MTRCB RATING ▸PG-13

The award-winning lead star of this film has died recently in the same mysterious and terrifying circumstances suffered by the character he has portrayed... Ikaw, handa ka rin bang saniban para maniwalang totoo ang multo?

THIS IS THE SCARIEST MOVIE YOU'LL EVER SEE ABOUT REAL GHOSTS
TIYAKING MAY MGA KASAMA PARA MAS MALAKAS ANG SIGAWAN NA TANGING PANGONTRA UPANG DI SAPITIN ANG SINAPIT SA TOTOONG BUHAY NG BIDANG ARTISTA.

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KARENA LAM

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LO CHI-LEUNG

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6 AMERICAN PIE
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8 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9 UNDERWORLD
10 SWAT

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5 AMERICAN PIE
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

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6 PILYA
7 UNDERWORLD
8 HOW TO DEAL
9 AMERICAN PIE

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2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
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3 KATAS
4 AMERICAN PIE
5 KISKISAN
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
7 TREK
8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth
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1 PILYA
2 AMERICAN PIE
3 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 KISKISAN

Gotesco Ortigas
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2 TREK
3 AMERICAN PIE
4 PILYA
5 UNDERWORLD

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1 RESERVE

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2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

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3 AMERICAN PIE
4 FREDDY VS JASON

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2 MEDALLION
3 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 DARK WATER
3 BASIC
4 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1
2
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 KISKISAN
2 MOTEL
3 OPERATION BEIRUT
4 SUCCER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 AMERICAN PIE
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 FREDDY VS. JASON
4 KISKISAN
5 KATAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
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2 AMERICAN PIE
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
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2 DARK WATER
3 NENA INOSENTE

Mega Center Mall
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1 KATAS
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3 MEDALLION
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Cabuyao
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1 RESERVE
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2 HOW TO DEAL
3 KISKISAN
4 TAKE MY BODY

Jade Cinema
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1 MEDALLION
2 KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 AMERICAN PIE
4 KISKISAN

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RP firms among most regulated–WB study

By Elena R. Torrijos

OUT of 130 countries, the Philippines and nine other poor nations—Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Chad, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mali, Mozambique, Paraguay and Venezuela—have the most rules for business, consequently stifling productivity and causing corruption and higher unemployment, the World Bank said in a report released yesterday.

A much wealthier group of countries—Australia, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong (China), Jamaica, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden, and the United Kingdom—regulate the least.

The World Bank publication, titled "Doing Business in 2004: Understanding Regulation," collects and analyzes data on 130 countries. The analysis is based on assessments of each country's laws and regulations on starting a business, hiring and firing workers, enforcing contracts, getting credit, and closing a business.

"Heavier regulation brings bad outcomes. Heavier regulation is generally associated with greater inefficiency in public institutions and results in higher unemployment, increased corruption, less productivity and investment, but not better quality of private or public goods," the World Bank report said.

The report also found that countries that regulate the most, the poor countries, have the least enforcement capacity and the fewest checks and balances in government to ensure that regulatory discretion is not used to abuse businesses and exact bribes.

While the "optimal" level of regulation was not zero, it may be less than what is currently found in most countries, and especially in poor countries, the report noted.

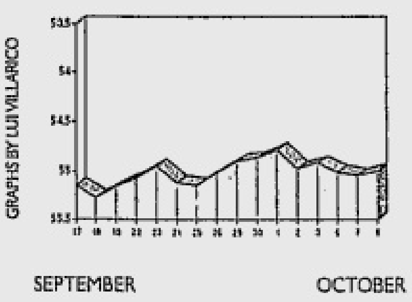
In the Philippines, the report's data showed it takes 59 days and 11 procedures to start a business, costs more than 100 percent to enforce a simple commercial contract and takes an average of 5.7 years to close a business. The data also reflected the country's very inadequate rules to support credit transactions and creditor rights, the long delays and expensiveness of going through insolvency proceedings and somewhat inflexible labor regulations.

Worldwide, there were dramatic differences in doing business. In Australia, an investor can register a business in two days; in Haiti, the same investor will need 203. In Denmark, an investor doesn't pay anything to start a business, while in Cambodia he or she pays five times the income per capita. In Tunisia, an investor can enforce a contract in seven-

RP/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



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P 55.00 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 8, 2003

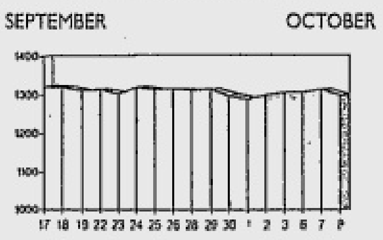
¥ 109.77 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 8, 2003

GOLD: $376.70-377.00
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 8, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Share prices close 1.08% lower

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 1.08 percent lower yesterday, falling back below the key 1,300 points level, as investors cashed out due to a lack of positive fresh leads to sustain recent gains, dealers said.

They said Moody's Investors Service's "generally negative" outlook for the debt and deposit ratings of Philippine banks may have also weakened sentiment, although others argued that this had likely been already priced in.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 14.18 points to 1,298.54, having traded between 1,295.22 and 1,312.79.

Volume was 958.75 million shares worth P595.21 million after 1.64 billion shares worth P498.12 million on Tuesday.

Losers outnumbered gainers 34 to 15, with 46 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index was down 4.90 points at 797.95 while the commercial-industrial index eased 19.37 to 1,909.43 and property dropped 12.21 to 563.55.

Mining, bucking the trend, was up 149.52 at 1,585.71 but oil was unchanged at 1.36 while banking and financial services shed 2.34 to 431.97.

Dealers said trade continued to be cautious on prevailing political concerns after the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday to re-open multiple murder charges against opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who has announced his bid for the presidency in next year's polls.

SHARE/ B2

Gov't warned against letting politics drown economic gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES could "miss the boat" given an improving global economic environment if political bickering would drown the country's economic gains, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri warned yesterday.

Neri said he hoped that the political noise ahead of the 2004 presidential elections would not overwhelm the positive developments in the country, such as the growing strength of the manufacturing sector that had led to the creation of 138,000 new jobs after seven quarters of decline.

He also said the low interest rate environment was now boosting private construction while the government was taking sufficient measures to keep the fiscal deficit in check.

"Sound macroeconomic management also enabled the peso to recover after the July mutiny," Neri said, reiterating that economic growth and job generation were key to reducing poverty.

Earlier, the National Statistics Coordination Board reported that the poverty incidence among Filipino families rose from 28.1 percent in 1997 to 28.4 percent in 2000 because of the economic slowdown mainly attributed to the Asian financial crisis.

This developed as the average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate from 1998 to 2000 slowed to 2.4 percent, less than half the average growth from 1995 to 1997 at 5.2 percent, where a reduction in poverty incidence was observed. The lower economic growth, in turn, resulted in a slowdown in the average number of jobs generated from 1998 to 2000 to 339,000 compared to the average of 894,000 jobs generated from 1995 to 1997.

But as average growth rose to 3.7 percent in 2001-2002, the poverty situation also improved, particularly in households' access to electricity and education, Neri said. He cited

GOV'T/ B2

BIR misses Sept. collection goal

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration has given up on meeting its P22.08-billion deficit target in September after the Bureau of Internal Revenue yesterday said it missed its P32.58-billion collection goal in September by more than P2 billion.

However, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he was confident that the gap between revenues and expenditures in the first nine months would still be below the P149.17-billion ceiling.

Government spending in September also exceeded the P69.55-billion ceiling, the third straight month for expenditures to go over the target.

"We have more than P13 billion in flexibility left as of August. I'm sure we have not used that up so we would still be below the nine-month target," he said. As of August, the deficit was only at P113.56 billion against an eight-month goal of P127.1 billion.

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Gloria in excesses

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT is a court decision which may astonish even the quiet—awfully quiet—residents of Loyola and all the other memorial parks from here to Joey's night club.

Yesterday, news erupted that the Sandiganbayan ordered the Presidential Commission on Good Government, or the PCGG, to free San Miguel from sequestration.

Again, that's San Miguel. We all know that the company is one of the favorites of this cute administration of Gloriaetta. For target practice.

* * *

IN the stock market, they fear that this cute administration is poised to take over the company, for better or for worse, although everybody concedes it's likely for the worse. Sure, San Miguel is still the biggest private business in the country. It is also the most aggressive investor here, armed with some P50 billion in cash for acquisition. But it's chair and CEO is Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., a known crony of Ferdinand Marcos, who was said to be interested in running in 2004. Oops!

Somebody already ate her own words. This means that, if he would run, Danding would have to deal with the power which radiates from . . . well, Malacañang.

* * *

LATELY, for instance, an official of the PCGG, a certain Ruben Carranza, opened his big mouth again, while his boss, Chair Haydee Yorac, was in sickbed.

As Carranza was saying, before he was rudely interrupted by the Sandiganbayan, the PCGG will take over San Miguel this coming February.

The Sandiganbayan ruling, written by Justice Diosdado Peralta, who acted on a motion filed by Danding, lifts the PCGG sequestration on a block of San Miguel shares.

The block controls 47 percent of the company. A huge portion, representing 27-percent ownership in San Miguel, is under the name of the coconut levy fund.

But the remaining shares, or some 20-percent interest in San Miguel, belongs to Danding. The PCGG, the court says, no longer controls all those shares.

With the new ruling, the question is, what happened to the threat of Carranza? The way he talked, it's as if this cute administration also controlled the judiciary. Oops.

* * *

AND that, ladies and gentleman, may very well be how the business community will take the new ruling—that somebody powerful enough worked on it.

If that is so, then the next question is more obvious than the reason behind the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case. And that is, will Danding still run in 2004?

Well, this cute administration already knew a while back that the man would only run, if Gloriaetta herself would remain true to her word that she would not run.

If indeed the Sandiganbayan ruling has anything to do with politics at all, it must be something else other than Danding's candidacy.

Down here in our barangay, the guys are willing to bet their religion that it has something to do with support. Somebody needs Danding's political support in 2004.

* * *

FOR almost three years now, this cute administration of Gloriaetta is trying to slash the annoying budget deficit. And so nobody is surprised over its resounding success in making the deficit grow even bigger, as the deficit swells to more than P200 billion this year—an all-time record.

That's why Gloriaetta now wants to remain as President of the Republic. This country is in deep sh... You know, that brownish substance.

By wanting to stay as President, in effect, she is saying that she will save us from the excesses of the very same government in which she is also the very same president. What's that—Gloria in excesses?

Thus, by the time she is done in 2010--who knows—the deficit will have gone up somewhere there in the vicinity of the stratosphere.

* * *

STILL, her decision to run in 2004 comes with a big sacrifice on her part. Gloriaetta must now eat her own words. This is not easy.

It takes a big heart to be able to bear what people—some ordinary folk—call you on television news. And that is, and I quote, a LIAR. To think, Gloriaetta, or at least based on what she tells us, she actually disregards her own wellbeing.

For Gloriaetta, or at least based on what she tells us, her running in 2004 is not for anything else, but for the good of the country. There, it is not for her own interest. But then again, that is what she tells us. Our only problem is, she says one thing and then does another. If she says that she is only thinking of the country, does it mean that she will actually do something else, such as for the good of Jose Pidal (not his real name)?

* * *

AND what a big turn of events it was, the announcement of Gloriaetta that she is not going to honor her word at all. All along, all this time, everybody believed her that she would devote the remaining years of this cute administration to ... well, REFORMS.

How could we have known that she had other plans? She did not show any hint of her plan, for instance, that she would not mean what she said at all. Look, Gloriaetta was only trying her best to introduce reforms, when she spent a lot of precious presidential time, going to vote rich places, distributing food, gifts, and land titles.

If you believe her, pardon my French, but *vous estes un* gullible.

* *

IT is also the fault of the opposition that Gloriaetta must now break her word. The opposition did not fulfill their end of the bargain to forego politics.

Whether or not the opposition promised her anything, such as their agreeing to shun politics, if she would promise—merely promise—that she would run in 2004, is another matter altogether. Did anybody believe her in the first place?

Well, the opposition is bad, the opposition does not leave her alone, and the opposition keeps on attacking her, which--by definition--is the role of the opposition. The opposition must own the blame why we are now threatened with another six years of this cute administration. They did not return Gloriaetta's gesture of reconciliation. The lady and her Dobermans in and out of the government, in fact, tried her best to extend a hand of reconciliation by zeroing in on her possible opponents in 2004. They supposed had records of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's billions in bank accounts abroad, while former Sen. Raul Roco, all of a sudden, was investigated for graft and corruption at the DECS. By whom? By Malacañang?

* * *

NOW, Tanduay, the liquor company of Lucio Tan, known as Kapitan in the Chinese-Filipino business community, is stepping up its attack against Ginebra San Miguel.

The issue is Tanduay's latest product, something called Ginebra Kapitan, apparently named after the main man himself. Ginebra San Miguel, which is partly owned by San Miguel, went to court, claiming that Tanduay's Ginebra Kapitan was actually a copycat of Ginebra San Miguel's most popular brand, which is Ginebra San Miguel. The court issued a TRO against Tanduay. That's when the Tanduay PR boys started to attack Ginebra San Miguel as a monopoly. So look who's talking!

Why they cannot just wait for the court to decide on the case, is still unknown. But in an issue such as this, where an upstart allegedly rides on the goodwill of a long established brand, it is actually up to the court, and not the media.

Oh, by the way, when the court finally makes a ruling, it also helps if everybody abides by it. Tall order, I know!

Asia-Pacific airlines show signs of recovery in passenger traffic

By Abigail L. Ho

VARIOUS Asia-Pacific airlines aircraft

ASIA-PACIFIC airlines have started to show signs of recovery after suffering a blow during the earlier part of the year, registering only a 4.6-percent decline in passenger traffic in August from a 14-percent drop in July.

Data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) showed that the Asia-Pacific region to which flag carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. belonged had been consistently treading the recovery path these past months.

For the first eight months of the year, Asia-Pacific aviation traffic fell by only 14.4 percent against last year, slightly better than the January-to-July decline of 15.5 percent.

Airlines in the region continued to respond well to the decline in passenger volume by cutting available capacity by 4.4 percent in August.

The Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak left Asia-Pacific airlines reeling as some of the hardest hit countries were located in the region.

Since May, airlines in the region had been the worst performers in the world.

In August, however, North American air carriers posted the biggest decline in passenger traffic at 6.5 percent.

Airlines in other parts of the world showed growth in passenger volume in August. Middle East carriers led the pack with an 18.7-percent increase, with South American airlines behind them at 8.2 percent.

European carriers posted a 4.4-percent increase in traffic, while African carriers registered a 1.6-percent growth.

On a global scheme, traffic figures had moved closer to posting actual growth. Worldwide traffic fell by only 0.3 percent in August compared with the 3.6-percent decline suffered in July.

With the aviation industry still posting a decline in traffic, overall capacity has likewise been slashed by 1.4 percent to keep the global passenger load factor at a healthy level.

The capacity reduction resulted in a load factor of 79.5 percent in August, higher than the 77.5 percent registered in July.

"August figures confirm the positive recovery trend of June and July, with international passenger traffic increasing in all regions and freight traffic holding a steady course. This is encouraging news for our beleaguered industry," IATA director general and chief executive Giovanni Bisignani said in a statement.

RP firms among . . .

From page B1

days; in Guatemala this takes more than four years. Credit information systems have credit histories on almost every adult in New Zealand, Norway, and the United States, but cover less than 1 percent of the population in China, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Resolving bankruptcy takes six months in Ireland but more than 11 years in India.

"For governments to undertake reform there needs to be a strong constituency interested in change so that inertia and the lobbying of entrenched political or business groups can be overcome. By bringing concrete evidence to the debate, 'Doing Business' highlights the need for change and informs the development of new regulations and institutions," Simeon Djankov, manager of the World Bank/IFC monitoring and analysis unit and an author of the report, said.

Gov't warned against . . .

From page B1

the improvement in the poverty situation among the bottom 40 percent of Filipino families based on the preliminary poverty indicators survey for 2002.

Neri said the most notable among the improvements were the increase in access to electricity from 47.4 percent of total poor families in 1999 to 55.9 percent of total poor families in 2002; bigger percentage of poor families with gainfully employed heads from 57.6 percent to 85 percent; increase in the proportion of poor households with children aged 6-12 years old in elementary from 89.8 percent to 91.1 percent, and, teh bigger proportion of low-income households with children aged 13-16 years old in high school from 57.6 percent to 67.1 percent..

Firm earmarks ₱3.5B to develop Laguna area

By Michelle V. Remo

PROPERTY firm Earth+Style Corp. is set to invest P3.5 billion for the development of a 154-hectare agricultural site in Biñan, Laguna, into a multi-purpose urban destination.

Earth+Style president and chief executive Victor Manarang said the Jubilation New Biñan, the name of the soon-to-be-developed urban area, would include commercial, industrial, residential, educational and institutional facilities.

For its residential feature, Jubilation New Biñan will have 8,000 housing units that will cater to middle-income dwellers. The housing units will be built within a four- to five-year period, Manarang said.

The company official also said the town development project would aid in Biñan's move to evolve from being a primarily rural location into an urban destination, and would complement the industrial parks located in the area, such as the Laguna Technopark, the Laguna Industrial Park and the Mamplasan development zone.

The establishment of the Jubilation New Biñan town, which will be located in Barangay Mamplasan, is also expected to further bolster the development of the area into a major urban site in Laguna.

According to Manarang, quite a number of developers are setting their eyes on developing Mamplasan due to its proximity to industrial hubs, which employ about 200,000 workers, and to the Makati and Ortigas commercial business districts.

Manarang said the newly developed Mamplasan access road, which connects the South Luzon Expressway to the town proper of Biñan, helps in the accessibility of the Jubilation New Biñan.

"With the new access road, it will take Biñan residents only 30 minutes to reach Makati, and 45 minutes to Ortigas," he said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 8, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4	4	4	4	65,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	91,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	42.5	43	452,900
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	2,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33.5	33	33	66,200
Export and Ind Bank Inc.	0.75	0.78	0.75	.75	660,000
First E-Bank Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27.5	27.5	149,500
Philippine National Bank	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	182,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	480 000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	1,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31	31	31	10,400
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Filipino Fund Inc.	4	4	4	4	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1600	1600	1600	1600	50
P#ci Leasing & Fin. Inc	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1,300,000
Sun Life Financial Inc	1205	1230	1205	1230	1,720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	28	28	26.5	26.5	46,300
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	700	700	327,920
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.047	.047	13,700,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.72	.72	1,990,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	690	690	685	685	236,030
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0 014	0.013	.013	46,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	14.75	14.25	14.5	271,500
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	22.25	22.25	1,010,600
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.02	2	2	1,450,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1 8	0 1.	8 1.	8 1.8	20,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0 94	0 .9	4 .9	2 .92	70,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	215,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER PRODUCTS RELATED					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	247,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.75	0.78	0.75	.78	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	0 3	0 3	0 30	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17	0 1	7 16.7	5 16.75	226,300
RFM Corp.	0.68	00 .	68 .	68 .68	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	0 5	4 53.	5 53.5	76,900
San Miguel Corp. B	61	0	61 60	.5 61	164,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	00 .	27 .	27 .27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	0 6.	5 6.	5 6.5	2,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	0 4.	8 4.6	5 4.65	5,916,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0 .1	6 .1	6 .16	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.1	5 3.	2 3.1	5 3.2	109,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0 .03	3 .03	1 .033	6,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0 .	8 .	8 .8	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0 .00	8 .007	5 .0075	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.7	1.7	40,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.63	0 .6	3 .5	9 .6	6,570,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.7	0 .	7 .	7 .7	50,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.11	0 .1	1 .1	1 .11	20,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.022	0 .02	2 .02	2 .022	1,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	2 1.0	2	1 1	170,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	0	18 17.	75 17.75	216,900
Ionics Inc.	1.6	0 1.6	2 1.5	8 1.58	498,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2 2.0	2 2.0	2 2.02	12,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.93	0 .9	4 .9	3 .94	2,530,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	.3	2,700,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0 .3	9 .3	9 .39	740,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.29	0 .2	9 .2	7 .28	800,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0 .	3 .	3 .3	100,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	2.6	0 2.	6 2.	6 2.6	11,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.23	0 2	3 2	3 .23	90,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0 072	5 .072	5 .072	5 .0725	200,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.7	5 13.7	5 13 7	5 13.75	4,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0 57	0 .5	8 .5	7 .57	620,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.29	0 .2	9 .2	9 .29	150,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0 .3	4 .3	3 .33	690,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	28	0 2	8 2	7 27.5	234,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	0 10.	5 10.	5 10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	0 10.	5 10.	5 10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	0 10.	5 10	5 10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	0 10	5 10.	5 10.5	1,400
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.001	4 .001	4 .001	4 .0014	20,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.2	2,800,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.2	0 .	2 .	2 .2	70,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0 .1	8 .1	8 .18	1,610,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0 .23	5 .23	5 .235	410,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	3,230,000
Kuok Phil Properties	0 21	0 .2	1 .2	1 .21	1,300,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.115	0 .11	5 .11	5 .115	300,000
SM Development Corp.	1	6 1.0	6	1 1	120,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc	6.3	0 6	3 6.	1 6.2	3,077,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.17	0 .22	5 .1	7 .225	310,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.17	0 .22	5 .1	7 .225	190,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0 .004	4 .00	4 .0044	79,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0 .23	5 .2	2 .235	23,980,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0 .2	8 .2	6 .28	15,910,000
Manila Mining Corp A	0.007	0 .007	5 .00	7 .0075	419,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.007	5 .00	8 .007	5 .008	253,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	4 .003	6 .003	4 .0036	14,000,000
Philex Mining Corp A	0.31	0 .3	2 .3	1 .32	1,780,000
Philex Mining Corp B	0.32	0 3	3 .3	2 .33	840,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	30 .0	13 .0	13 .013	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	00 .	01 .	01 .01	11,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	00 .	15 .	15 .15	400,000

Share prices . . .

From page B1

"Investors pulled back given that there have been no new developments, while political concerns ahead of next year's elections prevail," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com said.

"Investors are taking a cautious stance for now and possibly waiting for the third quarter corporate earnings reports."

Westlink Global Equities chair Rommel Macapagal said Moody's negative outlook on the banking sector also probably undermined sentiment.

"That could be it," he said.

Globe Telecom was top traded, but closed unchanged at P700, while PLDT was down P5 to P685. *AFP*

DISCLOSURES

SUN Life of Canada (Philippines) Inc. said that in September, it bought 415,000 common shares of its own stock, pursuant to its normal course issue bid which the Toronto Stock Exchange approved, effective last February.

* * *

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. bough 30,000 shares at P1.30 per share on Oct. 7 as part of its buy-back program.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. said the legal officer and treasurer of Davao City agreed to give it a recomputation of the remaining amount of franchise tax due to the city. ***Compiled by Armin Adina, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

October 8, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.849978751	1	55.031
Japan	Yen	0.007741	0.009107	0.5012
United Kingdom	Pound	1.41309	1.6625	91.489
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110221	0.129675	7.1361
Switzerland	Franc	0.645685	0.759648	41.8042
Canada	Dollar	0.638553	0.751258	41.3425
Singapore	Dollar	0.494059	0.58126	31.9873
Australia	Dollar	0.587083	0.690703	38.0101
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.254705	2.652661	145.9786
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.226655	0.26666	14.6746
Brunei	Dollar	0.492627	0.579576	31.8946
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000119	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.021601	0.025413	1.3985
UAE	Dirham	0.231431	0.272279	14.9838
Euro	Euro	1	1.1765	64.744
Argentina	Peso	0.296677	0.34904	19.208
Brazil	REAL	0.29678	0.349162	19.2147
Denmark	Kroner	0.134597	0.158353	8.7143
India	Rupee	0.018792	0.022109	1.2167
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223708	0.263193	14.4838
Mexico	New Peso	0.075621	0.088968	4.896
New Zealand	Dollar	0.508543	0.598301	32.9251
Norway	Kroner	0.121445	0.14288	7.8628
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014764	0.01737	0.9559
South Africa	Rand	0.124585	0.146574	8.0661
Korea	Won	0.000739	0.000869	0.0478
Sweden	Kroner	0.111722	0.131441	7.2333
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025207	0.029656	1.632
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000533	0.000627	0.0345

CAR MARKET STILL SOFT

9-mo. vehicle industry sales up

By Michelle V. Remo

SALES of passenger cars declined to 1,703 units in September from 1,750 in the same period last year as customers postponed their buying plans to wait for the implementation of the new auto excise tax law.

The sales volume last September was, however, 22.6 percent higher than the 1,389 units sold in August.

The new law, which changed the basis of the excise tax computation for vehicles from engine displacement to prices, took effect last Oct. 4. The shift brought down the selling prices cars while it jacked up the prices of Asian Utility Vehicles and commercial vehicles, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc..

While car buyers postponed their purchases, customers of commercial vehicles advanced their purchases in view of the expected rise in prices.

According to Campi, sales of commercial vehicles rose 6.5 percent in September to 6,041 units from 5,673 units in the same period last year. The September volume was, however lower than the 6,931 units sold in the previous month.

Total industry sales last September rose by 4.3 percent to 7,744 units, from 7,423 units in 2002.

This brought the January-to-September sales of the automotive industry to 69,918 units, up 14 percent from the 61,350 units sold during the first nine months of 2002.

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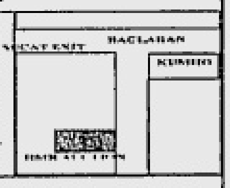

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

SIGMA COATINGS (PHILS.), INC. will be moving to its new and bigger office at ***UNIT 103 GROUND FLOOR, DON TIM BUILDING, 5438 SOUTH SUPERHIGHWAY, MAKATI CITY ON 10 OCTOBER 2003.***

The new contact numbers are as follows:

Telephone : 728-26-38
Telefax : 728-26-39

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

This is to formally inform you that the conversion of the balance of the unpaid and unsecured debts of ACFC into voting, redeemable preferred shares in ACFC has started last 15 September 2003. Each unsecured creditor is requested to come to ACFC's head office at the 6th Floor, All AsiaCapital Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City to sign the necessary Deeds of Assignment to effect the foregoing debt-to-equity swap The unsecured creditors have until 24 October 2003 to do so.

Should any unsecured creditor fail to sign the necessary Deeds of Assignment by 24 October 2003, Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion, the Rehabilitation Receiver of ACFC, will sign the same for and on their behalf. In the interim, Atty. Concepcion will hold their voting, redeemable preferred shares in trust/escrow.

For individuals, the following documents must be presented:

a. Valid Passport and/or Driver's License and/or identification with picture; and
b. 2003 Residence Certificate.

In the event the individual cannot personally appear to sign the Deed of Assignment, the following documents must be presented:

a. Special Power of Attorney authorizing the person appearing to sign the necessary Deed of Assignment for and on his/her behalf;
b. Valid Passport and/or Driver's License and/or identification with picture of the person authorized to sign the necessary Deed of Assignment; and
c. 2003 Residence Certificate of the person authorized to sign the necessary Deed of Assignment.

For corporations, the following documents must be presented:

a. Secretary's Certificate authorizing the person appearing to sign the necessary Deed of Assignment for and on its behalf;
b. Valid Passport and/or Driver's License and/or identification with picture of the person authorized to sign the necessary Deed of Assignment; and
c. 2003 Residence Certificate of the person authorized to sign the necessary Deed of Assignment.

Please note, however, that the conversion of the unpaid and unsecured debts of the clients of ACFC's Trust Department into voting, redeemable preferred shares will be undertaken for and on their behalf by Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion, the Rehabilitation Receiver of ACFC. Atty. Concepcion will hold said papers in trust/escrow for the clients of ACFC's Trust Department pending a full reconciliation of their accounts pursuant to the directive of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

(Sgd.) Atty. Johnny Y. Aruego, Jr.
Assistant Rehabilitation Receiver

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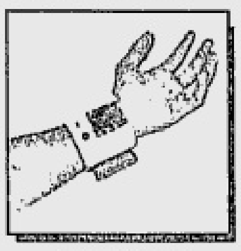

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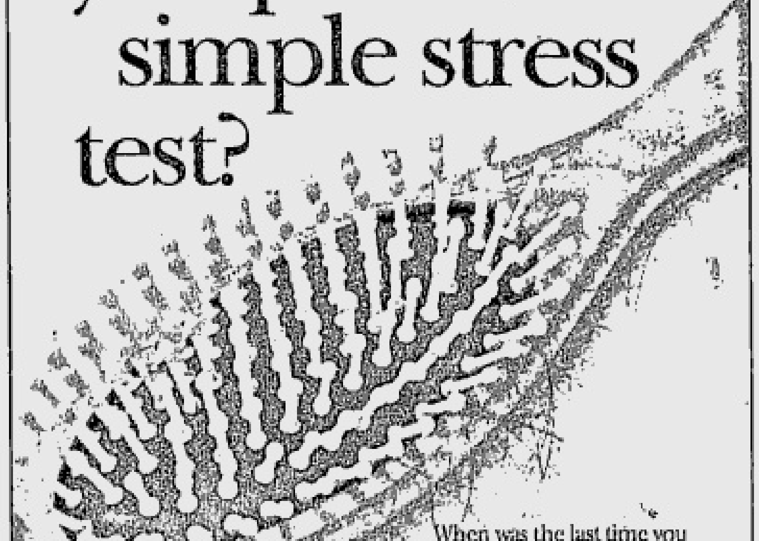
CEBU 262-32-39
SM SOUTHMALL Basement 802-15-65
ROBINSONS GALLERIA Basement 635-5061

As a balding person, could you pass this simple stress test?



When was the last time you looked at your hair brush and found no damaged or loose hair? Apart from natural wear-and-tear, stress, fatigue and depression can deplete energy levels and affect the condition of your hair. Unfortunately for both men and women, this can result in hair thinning, becoming brittle or even falling out. If you find that you are losing hair, it makes sense to check with one of our seasoned experts at Svenson International. Our treatments are proven to eliminate Dihydrotestosterone, the main source of hair loss, and to help hasten the hair regrowth process. Call us today at Svenson International and book your FREE CONSULTATION where we will attend to all your hair loss and baldness concerns.

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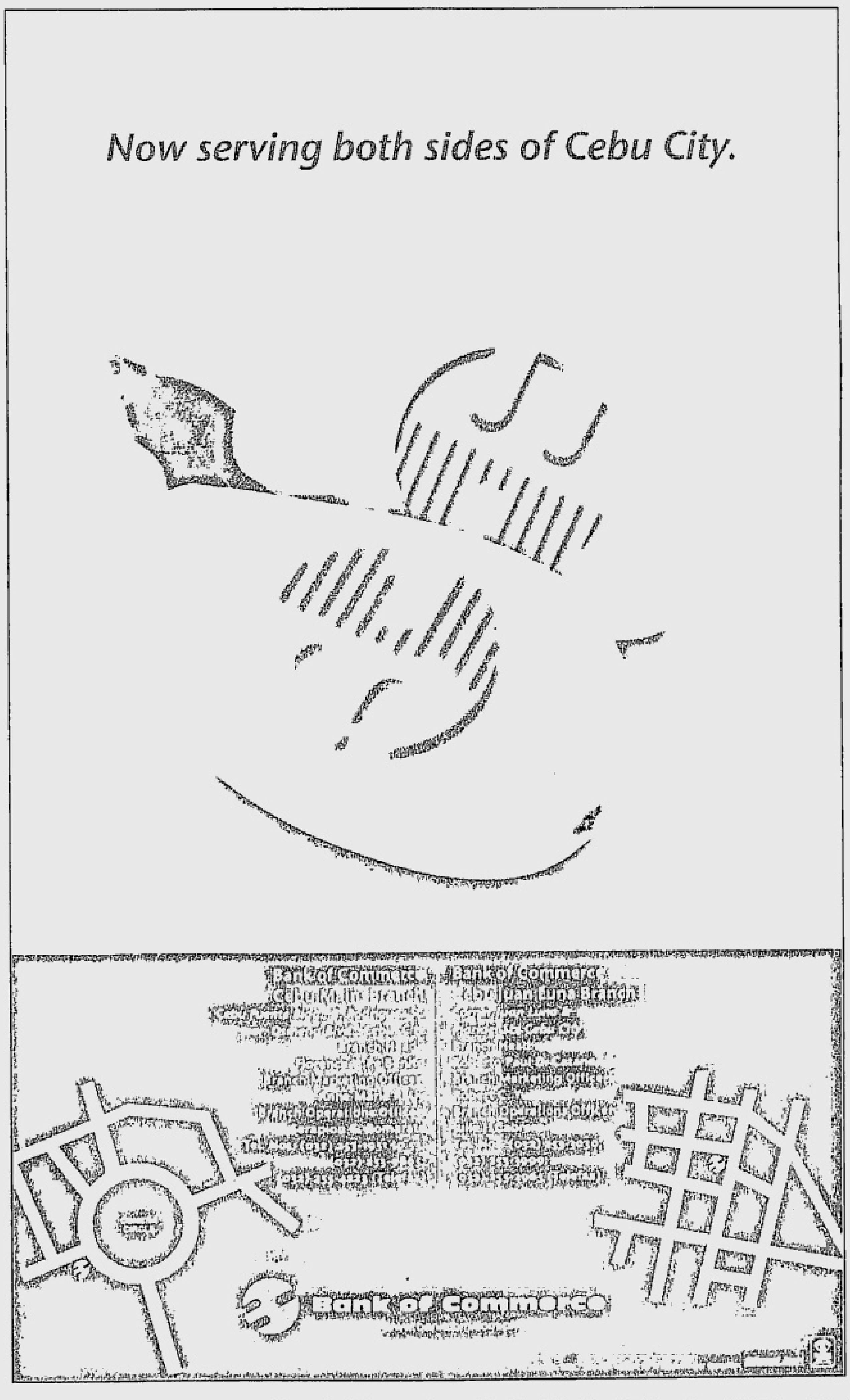

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India, Japan to sign trade deals with SE Asia

JAPANESE Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (left) talks to members of his delegation before a meeting with Asean leaders at the 9th Asean Summit in Nusa Dua, Bali, Oct. 8. Southeast Asian leaders were to sign a series of far-reaching security or trade deals with giant neighbors China, India and Japan.

AFP

BALI, Indonesia—Japan, still Asia's sole economic superpower, and tomorrow's giants China and India jostled for influence in Southeast Asia as they fleshed out plans on Wednesday for free trade agreements with the region.

Leaders of the 10-member Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) a day earlier at their annual summit endorsed a plan to transform their region into a giant free trade zone by 2020, although several urged a faster pace if they are to keep up with the rest of the world.

India and Japan are sealing agreements with Asean that closely resemble the one China reached with it a year ago and which set frameworks for negotiating free trade blocs that could eventually result in a huge East Asian common market.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Asean leaders signed security agreements to foster trust and urge the peaceful resolution of simmering territorial disputes between several Southeast Asian countries and the north Asian giant.

"This strategic partnership is non-aligned, non-military and non-exclusive," the agreement said, adding that it aimed to give a security umbrella to faster economic growth and cooperation.

The focus of this summit is on nurturing the economic growth of a region rocked in the past few years by a financial crisis, terror attacks and the SARS virus.

Security was tight on Indonesia's tropical island of Bali where 202 people were killed a year ago in the world's deadliest terror attack since the Sept. 11, 2001, strikes.

The failure of world trade talks in Cancun has highlighted the urgency for a trading bloc. Asean's relatively small economies want more influence to compete with China and at the same time already have an agreement in the works on setting up a free trade zone with the world's most populous country.

India is looking east to expand its trade, and its eagerness to counter the resurgence of China was underscored in a proposal by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Tuesday to accelerate tariff cuts to some of Asean's less developed members.

"India is today a country on the move," Vajpayee told a meeting of business leaders. "It is this India that seeks to partner Asean in this era of globalization."

Trade between India and Asean had grown 25 percent from less than $10 billion a year ago and the aim of the agreement would be to push trade to $30 billion by 2007 and create a free trade area within 10 years, he said.

Asean's trade with China accounted for 8.1 percent of its total of about $700 billion in 2001, compared with just 1.4 percent for India.

The grouping will also sign an economic framework partnership fleshing out an initial agreement reached last year with Japan, the world's No. 2 economy, which accounts for 14.1 percent of Asean trade.

"Japan and Asean should strengthen their cooperation as the engine behind not just their own mutual prosperity but also the prosperity of the entire East Asian region," Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told the business leaders on Tuesday.

Asean is already considering advancing its own 2020 deadline as it works on free trade agreements to be completed with China in 2010, India in 2011 and Japan in 2012, and is considering a mechanism for as few as two countries within the group to proceed on liberalization if they are ready ahead of the rest.

The Bali Concord II signed by Asean on Tuesday agreed to put 11 key sectors, including electronics, air travel and tourism, on a fast track to cut tariff and non-tariff barriers by 2010 rather than 2020.

Reuters

S&P improves credit ratings of 3 countries

SINGAPORE—Praised for making strides in their fiscal positions, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia all received sovereign credit ratings upgrades from Standard & Poor's on Wednesday.

Highlighting the improving economic conditions in the three Southeast Asian countries, the US-based ratings agency boosted each country by one notch in a ratings scale that markets use to price debt securities. A triple-A rating is the top grade and signifies minimal risk of default by an issuer.

The ratings upgrades underscore the progress made in the region since the Asian financial crisis, which started in Thailand in June 1997 and spread through the region.

Takahira Ogawa, director of S&P's Asia-Pacific sovereign ratings group, said Thailand had made strong fiscal improvements in the past few years.

Thailand's long-term foreign currency rating is now BBB long-term. Indonesia, still constrained by political risk, was raised to B from B minus.

S&P said Malaysia's smooth political transition was a positive factor in its rating.

The country's long-term foreign currency rating, the highest among the three nations, was raised to A minus from BBB plus, putting it on a par with South Korea. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is expected to retire at the end of this month.

Economists echoed the views of S&P and agreed that all three countries deserved the higher ratings.

Reuters

A PEDESTRIAN passes before a share prices board in downtown Tokyo Oct. 8. Japanese share prices fell 278.13 points to close at 10,542.20 points at the Tokyo Stock Exchange in active trade amid fresh investor concerns about the negative impact on exports of the yen's rise against the US dollar.

AFP

US firms finance accounting research

NEW YORK—Three of the countr largest companies are funding an aca demic center to improve standards for accounting and stock research hot button issues that hav of corporate Americ

Columbia Universi school launched the grants from investment ban Mo Stanley, International Busin chines Corp. and General Ele

The Center for Excellence i ing and Security Analysis, be by former US Securiti Commission Chairma will examine some of rate governance and cerns that GE, IBM and hemselves have been touched by.

"We will follow the basic concepts independent academic endeavors," ephen Penman, an accounting pro at Columbia and co-director of told Reuters.

to "identify who in the the best minds in these ar mble them into a project d thrash it out."

Harris, who heads Morgan Stan lobal valuation and ac am for equity research, direct the center.

of the advisory board in Krawcheck, chief execu igroup's Smith Barney unit; Bi former chief executive of pension manager TIAA-CREF; and Phil Ameen, GE's controller.

Dozens of companies have been probed for accounting practices and face allegations of securities fraud during the last two years.

Some of the highest profile scandals have involved false accounting charges at energy trader Enron Corp., telecommunications company Worldcom Inc., cable television provider Adelphia Communications Corp. and others.

Morgan Stanley was one of 10 investment banks that signed a $1.4-billion settlement with securities regulators over allegations that research was tainted to help win investment banking business from corporate clients.

Reuters

Asian stocks continue rise

SINGAPORE—The dollar struggled on Wednesday to hold above three-year lows against the yen, driving investors from shares in Japanese exporters into more defensive stocks and Japanese government bonds.

But an index of shares elsewhere in Asia edged up to a new three-year high, led by telecommunications stocks, after Wall Street rose for a fifth session and firmed further in after-hours trade following a good start to the corporate reporting season.

Elsewhere in Asia, stocks firmed modestly on balance, lifting a broad dollar-based MSCI index of Asia Pacific shares ex-Japan by 0.3 percent to its highest since September 2000.

In Hong Kong, investors snapped up telecoms stocks that had missed earlier rallies. China Mobile jumped more than 3 percent as the Hang Seng rose more than one percent.

Benchmarks were up about 0.5 percent in Australia and Singapore. South Korea and Taiwan were flat.

The gains reflected increasing confidence in an improving global economy. US stocks rose for the fifth straight day on Tuesday and gained further after the closing bell when blue-chip bellwether Alcoa Inc. reported a hefty gain in profits.

But investors doubted whether a perky US economy would help the dollar, which was also mired near seven-year lows against the Canadian dollar and six-year lows versus the Australian dollar.

European Central Bank President Wim Duisenberg's comments earlier this week that a weaker dollar was unavoidable.

Reuters

Pepsi profit increases 13%

NEW YORK—PepsiCo Inc. on Tuesday said its quarterly profit rose 13 percent on a strong performance by its salty snack foods like Doritos and beverage sales in North America.

The results were in line with Wall Street expectations for the company, which said it was reviewing its dividend policy in light of the strong profits. The company also expects full-year earnings to be at the high end of its previous outlook.

Profit at Frito-Lay North America, the company's largest division, rose 8 percent, boosted by a new Cheetos cheese-flavored snack. Newer soft drinks such as in Dew Live-Wire and Sierra Mist profit at the North American beverage unit.

PepsiCo's total volume of products sold rose 5 percent in the third quarter, ended Sept. 6, with strong growth in both beverages and snacks.

Chief Executive Steve Reinemund said the company was looking at ways to reinvigorate its trademark Pepsi-Cola brand.

Purchase, New York-based Pepsi said it earned $1.08 billion, or 62 cents a share, in the quarter, compared with $953 million, or 53 cents a share, a year earlier.

Revenue rose 8.4 percent to $6.83 billion from $6.30 billion.

Reuters

JP Morgan to hire more in Asia-Pacific

SINGAPORE—US investme JP Morgan Chase & Co. Inc Tuesday it plans to hire mor people in the Asia-Pacific region and shi some analyst and research functi to India from Japar

Bart Broadman, chairman for Asia, said planned to hire 100 to 15 each year from 2004 year industry downturn ing the consolidation of in the wake of its mer mercial bank Chase 2000.

"It's a little bit of a shift fi e last couple of years, where we have been making the odd spot hire to fill a skills gap that we had, to getting into a more sustainable process where we bring them in the bottom and train ap an said.

expect the growth over ears to be much more not Australia, i.e. all the ina, Asean, India. Therewould expect the ld reporters.

on of South East (Asean) comprises dia, Laos, Vietnam, In Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

6,500 staff in the gion, which accounts d 10 percent of its global investment banking revenues.

The investment bank, which has a global work force of some 90,000 people, also said it was moving some processing work as well as basic analyst and research functions to India.

"We're outsourcing from Japan and Hong Kong principally to Mumbai for some of those activities," he said.

Broadman, who relocated from Japan to Singapore two months ago, said the firm's client base was growing rapidly in Southeast Asia in markets such as Singapore as the city state developed into a wealth management center.

"We do see growth coming in this region. Part of it from economic recovery, part of it from the role it will play vis-a-vis India and China," he said. "We see an opportunity to put some of our own capital to work as well as to work with clients."

JP Morgan has some 3,000 clients in Asia-Pacific with financial institutions making up a large portion of its customer base.

Reuters

McDonald's sales up 3.7%

CHICAGO—McDonald's Corp. on Tuesday said September sales at its hamburger restaurants open more than a year rose 3.7 percent, as new menu items and longer hours at US businesses offset weakness overseas.

US sales at stores open more than a year were up 10 percent, rising for their sixth straight month and slightly outpacing analysts' expectations for a gain in the high single digits. Total September sales rose 11.1 percent.

Improvement in the United States, McDonald's largest market, has been driven by a push toward nontraditional fast-food menu offerings and promotions, such as new meal-sized salads. The company in September launched an advertising campaign designed to attract young adults.

"Our US business is ahead of the pace we set for ourselves at the beginning of the year," Chief Executive Jim Cantalupo said in a statement after the close of trading.

"Nevertheless, we still have much to do to achieve enduring, profitable growth around the world."

Same-store sales in Europe, McDonald's second-biggest market, fell 0.9 percent in September, reversing a modest August gain after a sustained downturn.

Reuters

Productivity halting US recovery—Fed

NEW YORK—The Federal Reserve will have to stimulate economic growth that is fast enough to overcome the braking effect of high productivity on job creation, a senior Fed official said on Tuesday.

Rapid productivity gains are the main reason that job growth is the missing ingredient in the US economic recovery, Dallas Federal Reserve Bank President Robert McTeer said.

To overcome that impediment to employment creation, the economy's overall pace would have to outrun that of productivity, he said.

"From a macroeconomic perspective, it's a simple problem," McTeer said. "All you have to do is run the economy hotter."

McTeer was delivering a speech on the US economy and answering questions before a Wall Street audience in New York.

He said he was fairly optimistic about the economic outlook and added that the economy was gaining some traction. If companies rebuilt their inventories in the third quarter growth could have been more than 5 percent, but even if not, growth could have been more than 4 percent, he said.

McTeer reiterated the message from other Fed officials that the central bank is not likely to hike its benchmark federal funds any time soon.

When Fed policymakers last met 16, they held the funds rate steady year low of one percent. They said at the time that they believed the rate could sta low for a "considerable period."

Even with such strong economic growt prospects, 'should the bond guys worry about this?" he asked. "I don't think so, because we still have plenty of slack" in the economy.

McTeer is not currently a voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee, the Fed's policy-setting panel.

McTeer said the National Bureau of Economic Research, the official arbiter of economic cycles, may have to revisit its methodology for dating recessions. The NBER said the last recession began in March 2001 when employment peaked and ended in November of that year as output began to pick up.

But since the official end of that recession, and subsequent spotty recovery, the economy has continued to shed hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Reuters

JAPAN's electronics giant Sanyo employee Yuri Otani displays the prototype 3G/GSM dual mobile phone with built-in digital TV with 2.2-inch high-resolution LCD display which also enables to record TV images on the built-in flash memory at the CEATEC, Asia's largest electronics trade show in Makuhari, suburban Tokyo, Oct. 7.

AFP

GDP to grow 4.2%, says Neri

By Doris C. Dumlao

GLOBAL economic recovery should help the Philippines attain a 4.2-percent growth, the lower end of this year's growth target, but the prospects for 2004 depend on the outcome of next May's presidential election, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

The recovery of the country's major markets, he said, would boost the Philippines' export performance which had been declining in the past two months. The improving weather condition, he added, would also be a big help.

For the second straight month , exports weakened by 2.2 percent in August to $2.97 billion from year-ago level.

As the government was banking on a rebound in the export sector to boost growth in the domestic economy to 4.5 percent this semester, analysts said the slump in exports could threaten full-year growth targets.

But Neri maintained yesterday that the gross domestic product – the sum of all goods and services produced by the economy - could still grow by 3.8-4.3 percent in the third quarter to bring this year's average growth to 4.2 percent, still within the government's forecast of 4.2-5.2 percent.

"The expected upturn in the second half of the year will be due to the recovery taking place in the US, Japan and Europe. Also, Asian economies are recovering from the impact of SARS. The electronics sector will also strengthen with the demand picking up," Neri said.

For 2004, the best case scenario is for growth to rally further to between 5.2 and 6.0 percent, although it will be dependent on the "results of the political exercise next year," Neri added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced last weekend that she would seek a six-year term, calming businessmen worried by uncertainty over the presidential succession after she had said earlier that she would not run in the 2004 elections.

The Philippines narrowly avoided a recession in the three months to June when GDP rose by a lower than expected 3.2 percent from a year earlier and inched up by 0.1 percent from the previous quarter. The first half GDP grew 3.9 percent.

In 2004, agriculture is projected to expand by 3.7 to 4.7 percent with the continued implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act and the acceleration of the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program following the resolution of the case involving the ill-gotten wealth of former President Marcos.

The chief economic planner added that by next year, the manufacturing and construction sectors were expected to gain ground from stronger exports, pegging the industry's growth forecast between 4.5 and 5.4 percent.

Neri said the services sector would also expand by 5.6 to 6.6 percent next year as telecommunication, trade, and private services would continue to perform well.

"The financial sector will grow as bank lending improves in the wake of better corporate balance sheets and the reduction in non-performing loans," Neri noted. *With a report from AFP*

EO on cash perks for auto exports seen out soon

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG is set to issue an executive order granting staggered cash incentives in the next four years to exporters of local completely built vehicles.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the export incentive would start at $400 per unit on the first year and would be lowered to $300 per unit on the second year, $200 per unit on third year and $100 per unit on the fourth year.

Camacho said his agency had agreed to the export perks because they were limited to the actual number of units exported and that they were time-bound.

Camacho said these terms would ensure that export perks for vehicle exports would have a neutral impact on the government's revenue collections unlike export perks that were boundless in number and time that ended up being more of a burden than a boon to the government.

Camacho said the $400 subsidy per vehicle represented the taxes and duties that the assemblers would have paid for making and re-exporting them to other countries.

For the assemblers, the $400 subsidy should cover for shipping expenses and the premium of local labor and business costs over the target market that would make it worthwhile for assemblers to consider making the Philippines a hub for vehicle exports.

Assemblers such as Ford and Toyota have cited the Philippines' diminutive market compared to other automotive producers in Asean for the need to provide export subsidies in order to compensate for the country's lack of economies of scale.

The government would discontinue the export perks after the fourth year when the assemblers are expected to have established viable assembly operations for completely built up (CBU) units.

The export incentive package is one of the final components of the reforms introduced by the government in overhauling its Motor Vehicle Development Program.

Seaweed farmers to get relief from withholding tax

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) is expected to issue an order withdrawing the one-percent withholding tax being collected from seaweed farmers.

Officials of the Seaweed Industry Association of the Philippines (SIAP) met last week with Revenue Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno to seek an exemption of seaweed farmers from the withholding tax.

"There is a strong likelihood that the industry will be exempted from paying the tax. We explained why the tax is unnecessary and the BIR agreed to review the matter. We were told that a new directive might be issued this week," a source from the SIAP said.

Currently, the law mandates seaweed processors to collect the taxes from the seaweed farmers by discounting the amount on the farm gate prices of raw seaweeds. As a result, seaweed farmers do not get the full market price for their product.

The withholding tax is being collected from the seaweed farmers by virtue of Revenue Regulation 17-2003.

"It is our contention that seaweed is outside the coverage of RR 17-2003, particularly paragraph S., Section 2, because Eucheuma Cottonii and Espinosum, which are commercially cultured, are scientifically classified as non-food marine products," said SIAP president Benson Dakay.

Dakay said seaweed farmers should be accorded the same treatment as copra suppliers whose product was declared non-food by the BIR and was, therefore, exempted from RR 17-2003.

SIAP also cited the order of the Supreme Court under GR 198524 in 1994, which ruled that the imposition of the withholding tax on agricultural products should be limited to food products.

Dakay said that most seaweed farmers have marginal incomes and the one-percent withholding tax had been further lowering their income.

GOINGS-ON

New In-a-Jiffy dealers

IN-A-JIFFY Enterprises, the largest distributor of Magic Sing Videoke Microphone in the country, has breached its sales target for this year with the recent signing up of more than 200 dealer-outlets nationwide.

Adding to the growing list of IAJ's network are Odyssey, O Music Video, Automatic Center, Astrovision, AstroPlus, Abenson, Music One, Tower Records, Sogo and Western Appliances

IAJ president attributed the sales growth to an exceptional product line and the company's marketing strategy which targeted a broad range of clientele.

CebuPac's e-ticketing

CEBU Pacific Air will launch late this month initially on its Manila-Cebu service an electronic ticketing—or E-Ticketing - facility, the first of its kind in the local aviation industry.

"Airlines worldwide are already into - or moving towards - E-Ticketing," said CEB GM Danilo "Bong" Mojica. "And CEB wants to keep abreast of this global trend which will benefit both the passengers and the airline "

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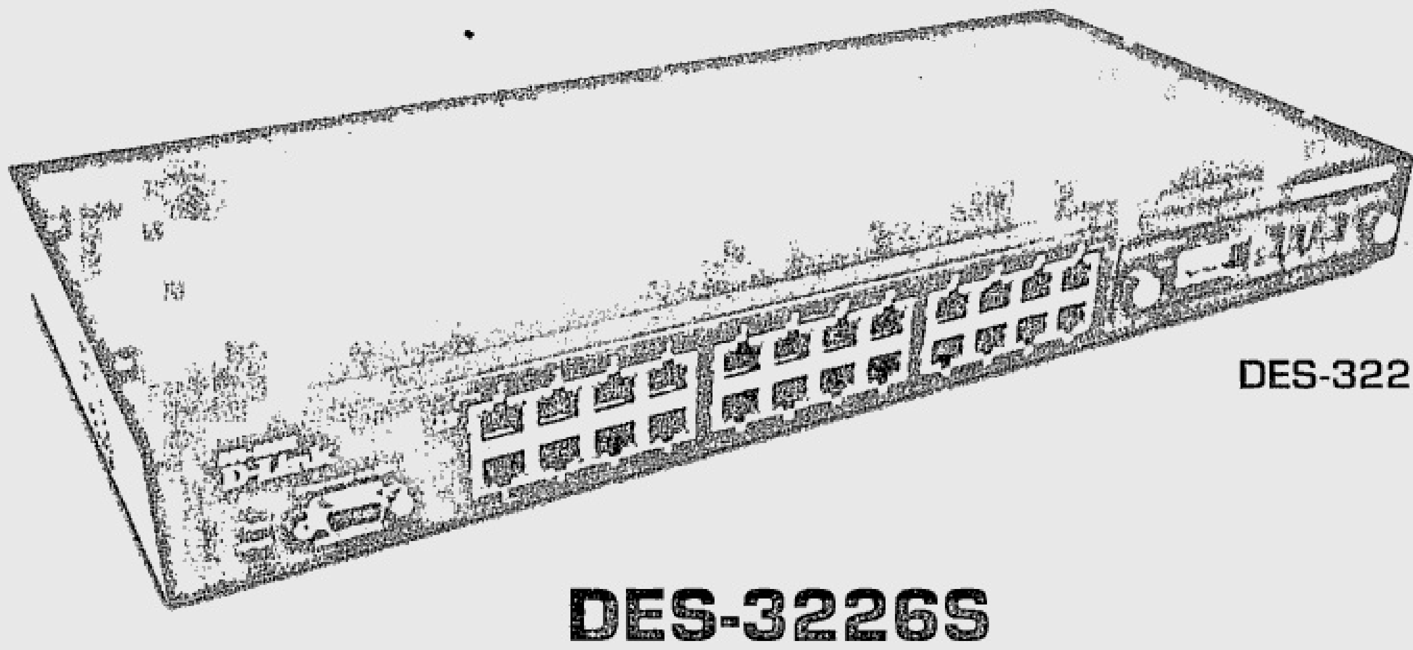

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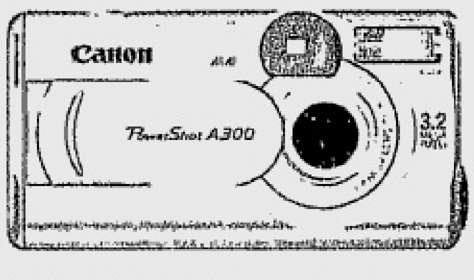

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given of the estate of the late SALVADOR I. DEL ROSARIO was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc 3143 Page 460 Series 2003 before Notary Public Jose L. Ma. Santos of Quezon City.
PDI-Oct.9, 16 & 23.2003

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of MULTI-LINK APPAREL CORPORATION with office address at 21 Duhat Road, Potrero, Malabon, Metro Manila for registration with the Board of Investment under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as Expanding Export Producer of Garments at a capacity of 16,500 dozens per year with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on October 01, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 1st day of October 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct 9, 2003)

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of STYLEWORKS MANUFACTURING CORPORATION with office address at 1998 2nd Street, Old Torres, Tondo, Manila for registration with the Board of Investment under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as New Export Producer of Garments at a capacity of 20,000 dozens per year with project site at same office address stated above has been officially accepted on September 26, 2003 and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 26th day of September 2003.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 9, 2003)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that heirs of late CAYO MAGSUMBOL executed a deed of extra-judicial settlement and sale to co-heir duly acknowledged before Notary Public Warlito C. Buenavista for and in the City of Manila per Doc 301 Page 62 Book XXXI Series of 2003.
PDI-October 2, 9 and 16, 2003

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24-HR HOTLINES

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

In order to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electrical power transmission, the **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)**, announces the opening of its **Integrated Traineeship Program** for **Year 2004**:

- **Cadetship Program** - on the job training for six (6) months intended for graduates of Electrical and Electronics & Communication Engineering Courses.
- **Apprenticeship Program** - on the job training for six (6) months intended for graduates of at least two (2)years Technical/Vocational Courses (i.e. Electrical Technology, Industrial Technology, Electrician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

Qualification Requirements:

1. Not more than twenty five (25) years of age;
2. Must pass the **TransCo** **psychological examination** for **Apprenticeship Program**; or the **TransCo** **psychological and technical examinations** for **Cadetship Program**; and
3. No failing grades in major subjects as shown in the Official Transcript of Records

Interested applicants should personally apply on **October 9-24, 2003** from **1:30 PM** to **4:30 PM** at the following **TransCo Offices**:

➢ **Residents of Metro Manila:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
Human Resource Training Division Human Resources Department G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City	(02) 922-5873 922-8435 local 5525/ 5526

➢ **Residents of South Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna	(02) 922-8435 local 6425 (049) 411-2184

➢ **Residents of South Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
District 1 – Batangas/Cavite Mahabang Parang, Batangas City	(043) 300-3591 (043) 300-3592
District 2 – Laguna/Quezon Barangay Real, Calamba City	(049) 545-1915 (049) 834-01-58
District 3 – Bicol Area Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay	(052) 824-11-02 (052) 824-7974

➢ **Residents of North Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Pennsylvania Ave. Poro Point San Fernando City, La Union	(072) 888-0837 (072) 888-0839
District 1 – Ilocos Area Barangay Pottot, Bauang, La Union	(072) 242-1178 (072) 242-1173
District 2 – Mt. Province Area Beckel, La Trinidad, Benguet	(074) 444-7425 (074) 444-7423
District 3 – North Central Plain Area Barangay Sto. Domingo, San Manuel, Pangasinan	(075) 565-3267 (075) 656-3268
District 4 – Cagayan Valley Area Brgy. Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela	(078) 682-8406 (078) 682-8408
District 5 – West Central Plain Area Barangay Balsik, Hermosa, Bataan	(045) 971-6698 (045) 971-6780
District 6 – South Central Plain Area Barangay San Jose Matulid, Mexico, Pampanga	(045) 966-0436
District 7 – Northern Tagalog Area San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	(044) 691-3330

➢ **Residents of Visayas:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City	(032) 346-3427 (032) 346-9449

➢ **Residents of Visayas:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
District 1 – Western Visayas Area Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Ilo-ilo City	(033) 336-1489 (033) 336-8026
District 2 – Central Visayas Area Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City	(032) 346-9338
District 3 – Eastern Visayas Area Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City	(053) 561-0140
District 4 – Negros Area Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City	(034) 435-4418 (034) 708-6988

➢ **Residents of Mindanao:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Ma. Cristina, Iligan City	(063) 223-6613
District 1 – Northwestern Mindanao Area Rizal Avenue, Santiago District, Pagadian City	(062) 214-1856 (062) 214-1671
District 2 – Lanao Area Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City	(063) 221-6136 (063) 221-6133 (063) 221-6134
District 3 – Northcentral Mindanao Area Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City	(088) 227-23716 (088) 227-23744 (088) 858-6047
District 4 – Northeastern Mindanao Area J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City	(085) 815-2178 (085) 342-8293 (085) 225-2147
District 5 – Southeastern Mindanao Area 3rd Floor, D&G Bldg., corner Yellowville & Sampaguita Mintal, Davao City	(082) 293-0208 (082) 293-0599 (082) 293-0205
District 6 – Southwestern Mindanao Area Calumpang, General Santos City	(083) 553-2819 (083) 552-3269

For **Cadetship Program**, only those who pass the psychological examination will be qualified to take the **technical examination** scheduled on **November 22, 2003 for Luzon** and **November 29, 2003 for Visayas/ Mindanao.**

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Naga, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as "Medium A" to apply for registration and eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects under the Build and Transfer Scheme as governed by RA 6957, as amended, and by Naga City Ordinance No. 2001-074. More specifically, project payment will be one year from completion at a fixed interest rate.

Name of Project and Location	Equipment Needed	Contract Duration	Approved budget
Construction of Calauag-San Felipe Storm Drainage System, Naga City	Back hoe, Welding machine Concrete mixer	250 days	P 8,867,500.00
Hauling of Earthfill at Brgy. Queborac, Urban Poor Site, Bag. 'Sur, Naga City	Loader, Dump trucks, Grader Road Roller	240 days	P 7,569,100.00

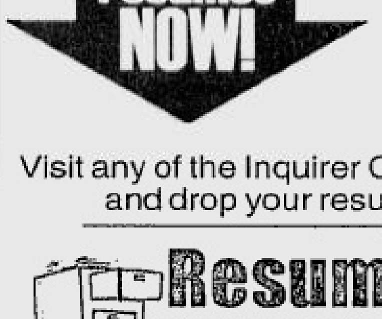
The Checklist of Registration and Eligibility Requirements will be available to interested bidders for issuance starting **October 8, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office (CPDO), Naga City. Interested bidders shall submit their letter of intent and their registration and eligibility requirements to the CPDO not later than 12 noon on **October 29, 2003**, and secure the results of the eligibility screening on **October 31**.

Bid documents will be issued to eligible bidders until **November 7, 2003** upon payment to the City Treasurer's Office of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 per project. Eligible bidders must attend a pre-bid conference on **November 14, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. at the Bicol. Science Centrum Conference Room, Naga City. Deadline for the submission of bids is until 12:00 noon, **November 28, 2003** at the CPDO. Opening of bids will start at 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any minor defects in order to obtain the most advantageous offer to the city government. The City Government will not compensate nor indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation and submission of their bid.

JESSE M. ROBREDO
City Mayor

(PDI – Oct. 9, 16 & 23, 2003)



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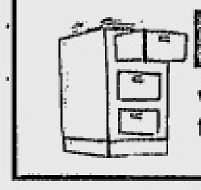

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PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON
GOOD GOVERNMENT
IRC BUILDING # 82 EDSA
MANDALUYONG CITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), Region 8, invites interested parties to participate in the sealed bidding for the lease of the ground floor of the People's Center and Library located at Real St., Tacloban City as venue for "CHRISTMAS BAZAAR" Trade Exhibit from November 15, 2003 to January 15, 2004.

The bidding guidelines will be available at PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA Mandaluyong City and at the PCGG Regional Office, Nipa Hut, Jones St., Tacloban City, starting October 7, 2003. For inquiries, please contact Sonny dela Paz at Telephone Nos. 726-0034 and 725-6958 and Renor O. Daug at Telephone No. (053) 321-3413.

Pre-qualification requirements should be submitted on or before October 15, 2003, while bids will be received, opened and tabulated at 10:00 A.M. on October 20, 2003 in the presence of the bidders at the PCGG Office, Asset Management Department, 3rd Floor, IRC Building, 82 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

(Sgd.) RENOR O. DAUAG
Officer-In-Charge
PCGG, Region 8
Tacloban City

(PDI – October 7, 8 & 9, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Procurement Service
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, CONFIGURATION and TESTING of BRANDED PERSONAL COMPUTERS AND UPS** for the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC).

The approved budget for this contract is P32,820,000.00

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **OCTOBER 23, 2003**, at 1:30 P.M. at the **PS Conference Room**, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco Manila

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **October 9, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of (Php 3,500.00)

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the PS Conference Room at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on November 06, 2003 at 1:30 P.M.

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos 561-60-98 or 563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – October 9 & 16, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MIMEOGRAPH PAPER AND BOND PAPER and COMPUTER CONTINUOUS FORMS** for PS Stocks.

The approved budget for this contract is **P8,220,520.00** for **Mimeograph Paper and Bond Paper** and **P2,129,457.00** for **Computer Continuous Forms.**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference for Mimeograph Paper and Bond Paper on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, 1:30 P.M.** and the **Pre-bid Conference for Computer Continuous Forms on Thursday, October 23, 2003, 9:30 A.M.** at the **PS Conference Room, Room 207, PS Complex, Cristobal Street, Paco, Manila.**

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **October 2, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00)** each.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the **PS Conference Room** at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on **November 4, 2003 at 1:30 P.M. for Mimeograph Paper and Bond Paper and November 6, 2003 at 9:30 A.M. for Computer Continuous Forms.**

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **563-93-67** or **563-94-02.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI–Oct. 2 & 9, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Procurement Service
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR WORKSTATIONS** for the **BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (BAR)**

The approved budget for this contract is **P2,935,170.00**

All interested parties are invited to attend the **Pre-Bid Conference** on Tuesday **October 21, 2003, at 9:30 A.M.** at the **PS Conference Room**, Room 207, PS Complex Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting **October 02, 2003** upon payment of non-refundable fee of **One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).**

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the PS Conference Room at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and receipt of bids shall be on **November 04, 2003 at 9:30 A.M.**

For more information, plese call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. **563-94-02** or **563-93-74.**

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI – October 2 & 9, 2003)

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"You will forever be in our hearts, Dad"

FRANCISCO "PACO" DIAZ FUENTES II

Peacefully joined his Creator
on 06 October 2003 at the age of 50.

His loving wife **Rose**; children **Frances Rosanne** and **Francisco Ramil**; parents **Paquit** and **Mary**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel B, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be cremated after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, 11 October 2003 at the Funeraria Paz Crematorium.

BIENVENIDO G. VILLAVICENCIO

Born September 30, 1915
Died October 08, 2003

He is survived by his only son Boysie Villavicencio and his sister Socorro V. de los Angeles.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish.

After the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the Mount Carmel Chapel Hall, on Friday, October 10, 2003, interment will be at the Christ the King Parish Church at Green Meadows in Quezon City.

ERNESTO M. ARANZANSO

Died peacefully on October 7, 2003 at the age of 56.

His loving wife Bernardita Boleche; children Marlene & Noel Asuncion, Maritess & Clarence Borromeo and Marvin; grandchildren Cheska Asuncion, Trixie & Jayson Borromeo, and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Chapel 1B, Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be interred on Saturday, 11th of October 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

The Lord has called home a loving wife,
a wonderful mother and grandmother.

Amelia Casiño San Diego

September 11, 1929 - October 7, 2003

Her loving husband **Pedring**; children **Marilou, Butch, Edwin, Edgar, Alvin, Alex, Francis**; children-in-law **Doug, Menchie, Javic**; and grandchildren **Miya, Karl, Justin, Pau, Pio, Niel,** and **Abby** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Church, Project 6, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 11, 2003.

Atty. Mamerto J. Singson, Jr.

of Luna La Union and Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator last October 7, 2003 at the age of 83

His loving wife Carmen; his children Mamerto (†) & Corito, Danny & Malou, Victoria (Becca) & Dr. Jan Everett, Marites (Jing-Jing) & Michael Nieveras; brothers & sisters Antonio (†) & Mary Palmano (†), Soledad (†) & Mariano Manzano (†), Emelda (†) & Sulpicio Cabading (†), Carmen (†) & Pedro Josue (†); nephews, nieces, grandchildren, other relatives & friends request your prayers for the eternal rest of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel N of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, October 11, 2003 at the Loyola Crematorium-Guadalupe at [illegible]

"To do your will is my delight; my God, your Law is in my heart."

Psalm 40:9

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[illegible] Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
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Tels. [illegible]
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[illegible]
Cell (0917) 5680136 (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Palo St., Project 2 Quezon City, Tel 434-3258

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CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 214, MANDALUYONG CITY

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR REHABILITATION, FORMATION AND APPOINTMENT OF REHABILITATION RECEIVER; THE APPROVAL OF REHABILITATION PLAN WITH PRAYER FOR THE DECLARATION OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS AND ACTIONS/PROCEEDINGS AGAINST PETITIONING DEBTORS AND THEIR OFFICERS.

SEC CASE NO. MC-03-073

JMMIRANDA REALTY & DEV'T. INC.; AGRINTER CORP.; MIRANDA BROS. INVESTMENT & TRADING CORP. AND REFERRED TO HEREIN AS THE MIRANDA GROUP OF CORPORATIONS.

Petitioner

x---x

ORDER

This is a Petition for Rehabilitation, Formation and Appointment of Rehabilitation Receiver; The Approval of Rehabilitation Plan With Prayer for the Declaration of Suspension of Payments and Actions/ Proceedings Against Petitioning Debtors and their Officers filed by Petitioners JMMiranda Realty & Dev't., Inc.; Agrinter Corp.; and Miranda Bros. Investment & Trading Corp. whose set of officers and Directors are the same and referred to herein as the Miranda Group of Corporations which among others, prays for the issuance of a Stay Order Pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4 of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation. x x x x x x x x x x x..

...xxxxx... In subtantial compliance to the Rules (Section 2, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation), the Petition was accompanied by the documentary supports, which this Court found to be in accordance with the requirements of the aforesaid law.

WHEREFORE, the Petition being sufficient in form and substance, a Stay Order pursuant to Rule 4, Section 6, of the Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation is hereby issued, as follows:

(a) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by Court action or otherwise against petitioners its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with it:

(b) Prohibiting petitioners from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties, except in the ordinary course of business:

(c) Prohibiting petitioners from making any payments of its liabilities outstanding as at the date of filing of the Petition;

(d) Prohibiting the suppliers of goods and services of petitioners from withholding supply of goods and services in the course of business for as long as petitioner makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order; and,

(e) Directing the payment in full of all administrative-expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

Mr. Jorge M. Ilagan is appointed rehabilitation receiver who can assume the position upon taking an oath and after posting a bond in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P250,000.00) executed in favor of petitioner, to guarantee that he will faithfully discharge his duties and the orders of this Court.

Let this Stay Order be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks from the date of the Order, at the expense of the petitioners.

All creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) are directed to file and serve on the petitioner their verified comment on or opposition to the petition, with supporting affidavits and documents, not later than ten (10) days before the date of the initial hearing. Within such time as to enable all creditors and interested parties to file their comment on, or opposition to the petition and to prepare them for the initial hearing of the petition, they are directed to secure from this Court copies of the petition and its annexes.

Let the initial hearing of the petition be set on November 6, 2003 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

SO ORDERED.

Mandaluyong City
15 September 2003

EDWIN D. SORONGON
Judge

(PDI-Oct. 9, 2003)

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University of Western Australia Information Session

MR. MARTIN CEBIS

MR. MARTIN Cebis of the University of Western Australia (UWA) is hosting an information session and will be speaking on the benefits of earning a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with UWA's offshore program. This program's classes are held completely here in Manila and UWA flies senior professors into Manila to facilitate classes. The program is designed so students can continue working while they earn their degree. UWA has over 150 students enrolled in its offshore programs in Singapore, Shanghai, Jakarta and Manila.

The University of Western Australia (UWA) is one of the top 5 universities in Australia and is among the '*Group of Eight*,' leading research-intensive universities. The MBA program may be completed in as early as 18 months, but due to the program's flexibility, many students opt to take longer to complete their non-thesis degree program.

Mr. Martin Cebis, is the program's Entrepreneurship & Innovation Professor as well as this month's host of the information session. The orientation will walk participants through the thrusts of the MBA, in the areas of leadership, strategy, and entrepreneurship. The event will be held on Tuesday, October 14, from 10am. -12nn at the 26/F IIAP, Ayala Life - FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

For reservations to the UWA Orientation, you may contact the Esteban School at telephone numbers: 844-2812 887-6390; fax number: 887-6391; and e-mail address: esteban@inext.net. You may also visit the UWA's website at www.gsm.uwa.edu.au.

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7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
8 UNDERWORLD

SM CITY CEBU

1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 INTESTATE 60
5 KATAS
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY BACOOR

1 PILYA
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 UNDERWORLD
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 KISKISAN
8 TREK

SM CITY PAMPANGA

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 PEOPLE I KNOW
3 THE MEDALLION
4 KATAS
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

1 PILYA
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 UNDERWORLD
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM BICUTAN

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 PILYA
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS
Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA

1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 PILYA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 KISKISAN
7 THE MEDALLION
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
10 TREK

SM SOUTHMALL

1 HOW TO DEAL
2 INNER SENSES
3 UNDERWORLD
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 KISKISAN
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 TREK
10 OILYA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

1 THE MEDALLION
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 FIRST TIME
4 UNDERWORLD
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 TREK
10 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
11 KISKISAN
12 PILYA

SM CITY DAVAO

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 NEW BLOOD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

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3 SPY KIDS 3-D
4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

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5 TREK
6 MAGDALENE SISTERS
7 HOW TO DEAL
8 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 FREDDY VS. JASON
12 PILYA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 PILYA
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO

1 KALABIT
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 THE MEDALLION
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 PEOPLE I KNOW
7 RESERVED
8 VISIBLE SECRET

SM CITY MANILA

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 UNDERWORLD
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
7 PILYA
8 TREK
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 THE MEDALLION
11 AMERICAN PSYCHO
12 INNER SENSES

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4 BASIC

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1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
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2 UNDERWORLD
10:50 FS/11:20 FS/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

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2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	5 UNDERWORLD 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
3 GIGLI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:20, 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
7 AMERICAN PSYCHO 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 7:00, 9:00	9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
8 MAGDALENE SISTERS 1:40, 4:10, 6:30, 9:00	10 THE TREK 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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536-7809 to 12

1 UNDERWORLD - 11:15, 1:25, 3:35, 5:45, 7:55, 10:00
2 HOW TO DEAL - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
3 TREK - 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:20, 12:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

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1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 AMERICAN PIE :THE WEDDING
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 THE TREK
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 TREK

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1 UNDERWORLD
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
4 THE MEDALLION
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 HOW TO DEAL
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 TREK

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PEOPLE I KNOW	1	UNDERWORLD
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
KATAS	3	TREK
TAKE MY BODY	4	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
THE MEDALLION	5	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	6	PILYA

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ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	1	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2	VISIBLE SECRET
2 FAST 2 FURIOUS	3	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
BASIC	4	THE MEDALLION
PEOPLE I KNOW	5	KALABIT
1ST TIME	6	PEOPLE I KNOW

Sta. Rosa (049)837-0907		Malabon 288-0985-2575
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	1	PILYA
KATAS	2	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	3	AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
KISKISAN	4	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
TAKE MY BODY	5	

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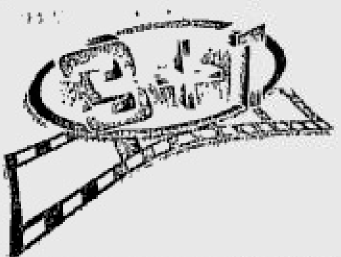

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HOW TO DEAL PG13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE PG13 12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20

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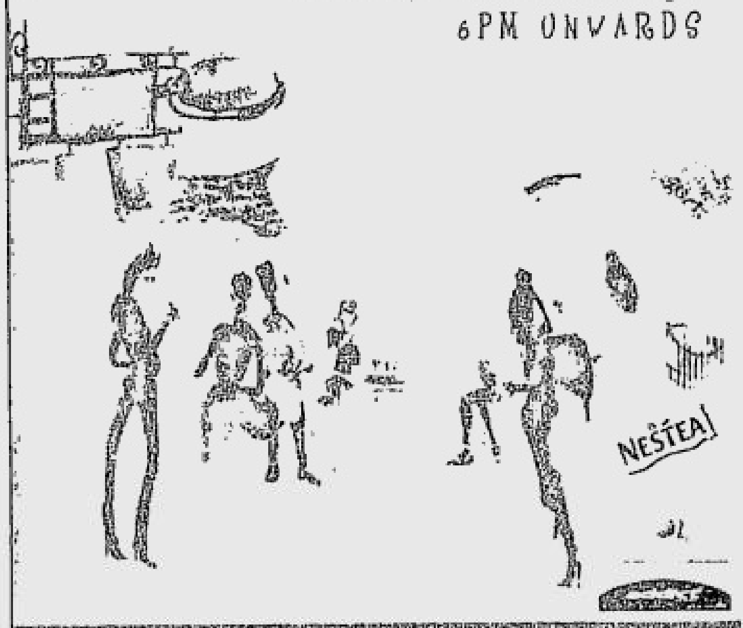

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OPENS OCTOBER 15! MAGIC 89.9

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R18

CINEMA 2
AMERICAN PIE "THE WEDDING"
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9:00
R18

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Light In Space introduces performance lighting

ARTIFICIAL indoor lighting is not the same as the light you get from the sun. That's because sunlight, unlike any other light source on the planet, is composed of the entire spectrum of visible light frequencies: all the colors of the rainbow from red to violet - plus invisible ultraviolet waves. And all of these components, including ultraviolet rays, are required for maximum health.

Artificial indoor lighting is inferior to natural sunlight in two ways.

First, the brightest indoor lighting is equivalent to only 5 percent of the light you get outside on a sunny day, standing in the shade.

Second, indoor lighting lacks a full range and even distribution of all of the colors in the visible light spectrum. While sunlight provides a more or less equal distribution of all the color frequencies from red to violet, indoor lighting provides an extremely uneven distribution, with an unnatural emphasis on the yellow and orange parts of the spectrum.

Partial-spectrum lighting makes it harder to make out words and colors on the page of a book or newspaper, causing headaches and eyestrain. In industrial settings, it can also affect the productivity in the assembly line.

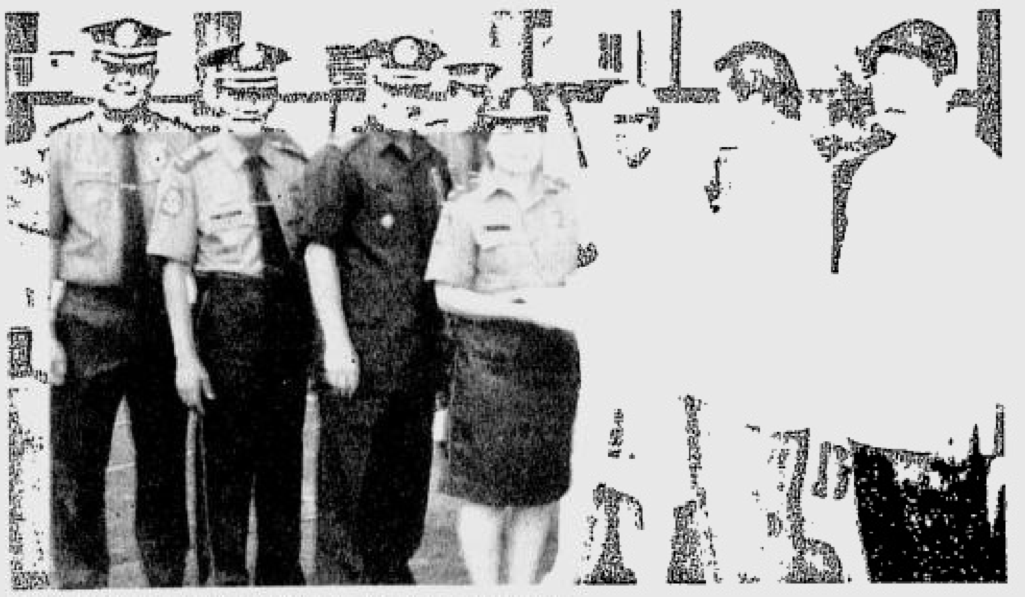
But with proper architectural lighting and design, it is possible to approximate the benefits of real sunlight. That is the mission of Light In Space (LIS), a new lights retail store located in Parc House along Edsa in Greenhills. It is a one-stop shop designed to provide lighting solutions to anyone who needs them - from private households to offices, food stores, and industrial areas.

The store is backed by the innovative German brand Trilux, known worldwide for its quality lighting products, whose clients in Manila include Rockwell Power Plant Mall (they are responsible for the elegant blue cove lighting on the roof), RCBC Plaza and Ford Motors (they light-designed most of the showrooms nationwide). In fact, Trilux considers LIS to be its Philippine showroom.

Along with Trilux, Light In Space also carries other imported brands such as Bag Turgi, Kreon, Erco, and Lumascape. Each brand specializes in a particular line of lighting solutions. Lumascape, for instance, is known for its innovative landscape lights.

It is easy to appreciate Trilux's lighting fixtures because of their sleek and user-friendly designs, but according to Wolfang Nefzer, Trilux representative in Manila, there is more to their lights than design. Years of continual research and development have yielded cost-effective and high-performance products.

The store also uses Calis, a computer program that can render virtual lighting plans. Just give the store your parameters, budget and requirements (whether you need lighting for a work area, an assembly area or a bedroom) and they will present you, in a matter of hours, with 3D architectural plans - by square feet - on how your space can look like with different sets of lights. With this option, designing your space can truly be light and easy.



MASONIC DISTRICT 3 FLAG DONATION
Masonic District 3 Very Worshipful Sigfredo Ibay (2nd from right) hands over a Philippine flag to Major Maria Oliva Sunico of the Philippine National Police as part of the Masonic District 3 activities for the year. The flag donation was held at the Camp Karingal Compound in Quezon City Sept. 8. Also shown are (from left) Superintendents James Bucayo and Dante Narag, Senior Supt. Rosendo Franco, Worshipful Brothers Orly Ortiz and Nelson Yau.

Be in good company, be in harmony with Singer

SINGER. Philippines strongly advocates the profitability of installment selling and works hard to make it work for you. The company maybe known for the sewing machine business but singer now is a name connected to consumer products that include home audio and video equipment, kitchen appliances and home furniture.

Joining the Singer Dealership Program is so easy. A lifetime membership fee of P385 is required for one to be a Singer direct seller. This particular fee translates to discounted rates for Singer products purchase and will cover product brochures you will need when dishing out your sales spiel. As a Singer borrower, you have to pay at least 20 percent of the cost of your initial product line and you must see to it that balance settlement is done within 24 months from purchase. If the purchase balance fails to be paid, the appliance units should be returned. Moreover, the dealership program even has a one-year personal accident insurance component worth P100,000.

Being a Singer sales agent, earnings are generated by getting 10 percent commission from the gross sale of products and 10 percent more in monthly collection. But therefore you can celebrate with the tempting overriding commissions, you need to process the necessary papers with the Department of Trade.

So make it that life-changing decision today. Opt to join the increasing number of satisfied Singer agents. Visit the Singer showroom for more details. Or call the Singer hotline at 527-9958 if you are in Metro Manila or 1-800-100-Singer if you reside in the provinces.

Indeed, the company you choose to keep can foretell what the future may hold for you.

MOTOROLA HOLDS FINAL LEG OF ROAD TRIP
Motorola's Personal Communications Sector recently held a bash to mark the final leg of the Motorola Road Trip to promote Motorush for Cash Motorola T190 Promo at Pier One at Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. Among the big names and beautiful faces spotted at the shindig were (from left) Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) assistant vice president for Advertising Kenny Nuyda; Bb. Pilipinas-World Maria Rafaela Yunon; Bb. Pilipinas-International Jhezarie Javier; Motorola's marketing manager for Personal Communications Sector-South Asia Ellen T. Suarez; Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Carla Gay Balingit; PDI vice president for Advertising Pepito Olarte; Bb. Pilipinas 1st Runner Up Kate Sephora Baesa; Bb. Pilipinas Queen of Tourism International 2003 Noela Mae Evangelista; PDI business editor Raul Marcelo; Libre editorial deskman Noel Velasco and Inquirer Publications, Inc. account manager Benedict Navero. Motorola, in partnership with Talk 'N Text, CellStar Philippines and ComWorks, Inc., is giving away cash prizes of over P2 million tax-free weekly and monthly to customers and selling agents through the promo.

JUDGES BENEFITS
Regional Trial Court (RTC) judges discussed with House members at the Batasan, Quezon City the approval of the bill equalizing the pay of retired judges with that of the incumbent judges. From right: Rep. Oscar Gozos of Batangas, Rep. Libanan of E. Samar and Makati RTC Judge and Philippine Judges Association vice president Romeo Fantone Barza, who is running for president of the PJA, has been leading the drive for the grant of additional benefits to RTC Judges.

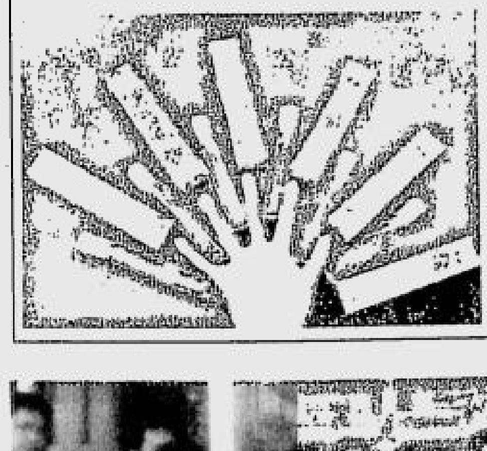
Product FILES

Fruit power for teens

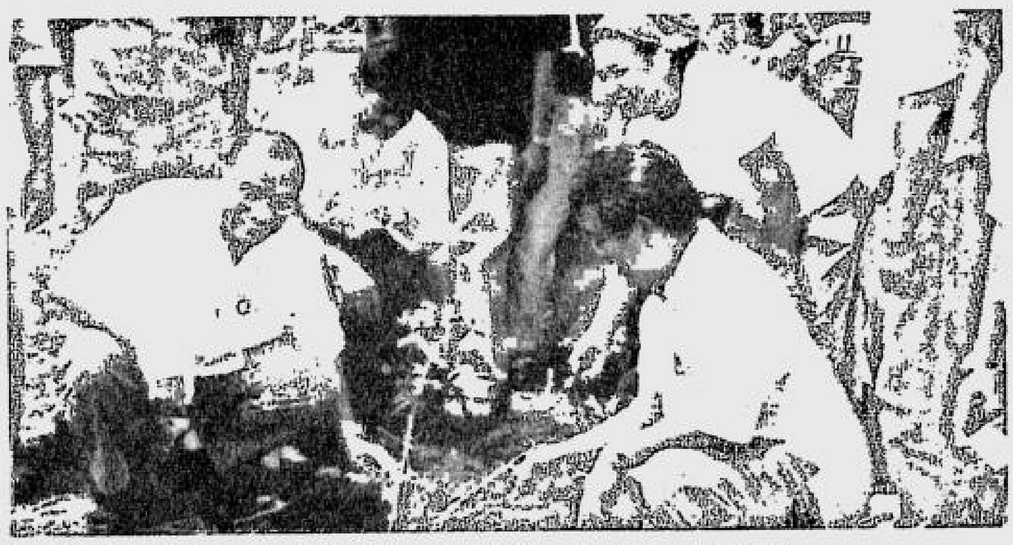
JUST B.U.G. (Just Between Us Girls), HBC's exclusive line of scents for today's teens has come up with new scents that are sure to captivate and charm you. Just B.U.G. introduces Fruity Scents - exciting and refreshing scents that lasts the whole day, making you feel good and fresh all-over.

It comes in 8 delectable and yummy scents: sweet and refreshing lychee, cooling kiwi, mesmerizing melon, seducing strawberry, tempting green apple, captivating cherry, sweet and relaxing raspberry and naturally refreshing lemon. Just B.U.G. Fruity Scents are sold exclusively at HBC - home and beauty exclusives.

It's time for you to experience the goodness of fruity scents. Visit the nearest HBC store in your area. Original scents also available.



MOON FESTIVAL DINNER
A moon festival dinner was recently hosted by a group of Chinese students and friends to celebrate this Chinese festival recently. Photo shows (seated) Zheng, Qzaq Xue, and Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stephen Ding Jr., EVP Manila Business College. At the back row are Ren Lijuan, Wang Zhen and Lin Cuo. These students are presently taking up English at the Manila Business College. The school also offers: Computer Science, Marketing, Management and Finance and English for foreign students. Ding teaches ESL for foreign students. Interested students may call 314-6564 and 314-6884.



NESTLE CDO FACTORY SPEARHEADS REFORESTATION
The Nestlé Cagayan de Oro Factory is spearheading a three-year reforestation project covering 10 hectares of land at Sitio Manila in Bgy. Tablon, Cagayan de Oro City, where the factory is located. The project aims to preserve the Tablon watershed and protect marine life in the Umalag river, one of the most preserved rivers in Mindanao The river provides livelihood opportunities for residents living along the banks. Shown is CDO HR head Erwin Lardizabal (left) planting a tree with city officials to formally launch the reforestation project.

BITS & Clips

Riverbanks mallwide sale

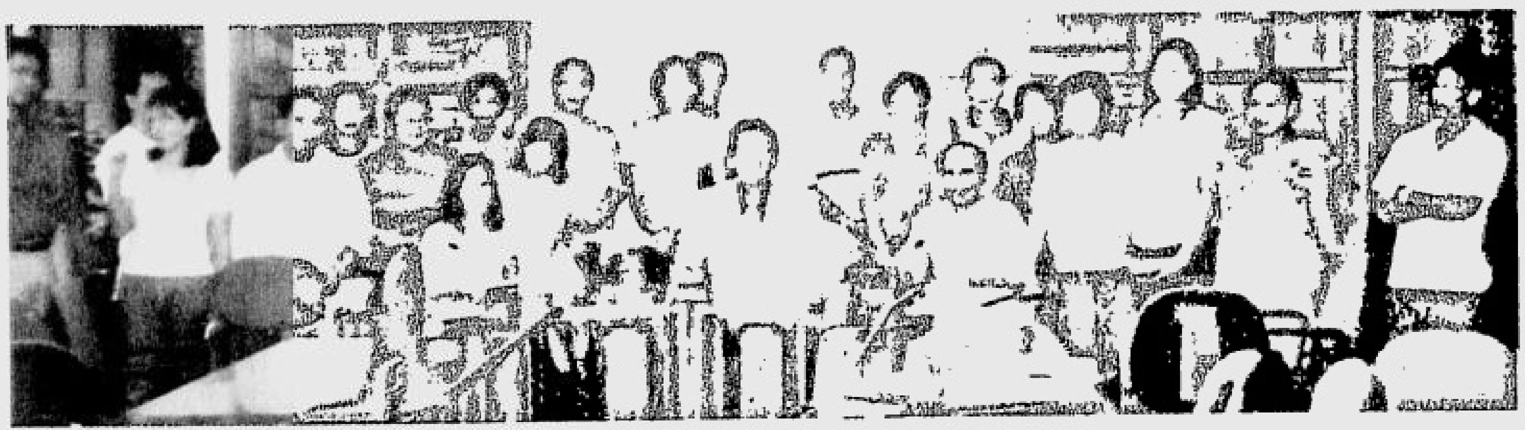
DO YOU want to make your early Christmas shopping more affordable and enjoyable? Visit the Riverbanks Mall, Marikina City's fastest growing commercial establishment located at the Riverbanks Center along A. Bonifacio Avenue. Riverbanks Mall is holding a mallwide sale until Oct. 15. Shop in participating establishments and take home your favorite shoes, apparel, and other merchandise discounted from 10 to 50 percent. Various activities also await the whole family. On Oct. 11 at 4 p.m., music lovers will be treated to the Weinstein Hour. Another affair to watch out for is the "Mascots Rule" on Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. Kids can mingle with best-loved mascots of Jollibee, Goldilocks and Kimy of Nestle. The mallwide sale coincides with the 3rd anniversary of the Riverbanks OffPrice Department Store, and the launch of the Cellphone Zone.

Merk's October offerings

MERK'S Bar Bistro features a dizzying array of musical talents this October. All Mondays of October bring back the red-hot Anna Fegi together with musician Toti Fuentes plus Soc Mina (on bass) and Michael Alba (on drums). The Happy Hour sessions Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays are by master instrumentalist Romy Posadas. Mae Romero takes to the stage every Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Tuesdays is on a stripped-down journey with Acoustic Jive. Oct. 8 and 15 are reserved for Richard Merk and his friends jamming with Annie Brazil. Merk and friends team up again with Judith Banal Oct. 22 and 29. Oct. 18 is Latin night with Onda Latina, while Rest of the Boys (ROB) take over Oct. 11 and 25. For inquiries and reservations, call 757-4720 or 757-4721

Seminar for English fluency

TO ENABLE corporate executives and other professionals to communicate more efficiently in English, The Corporate Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Trainings present "Prescriptions for English fluency", from Oct. 9 to 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Oct. 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila on Asian Development Bank Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The seminar-workshop is aimed at a marked improvement of one's level of English fluency three to six months after. Classes are limited to 15 participants. for registration details, call 687-7898 or email corpmind@edsamail.com.ph.



HEIRS OF SUPERFERRY COLLISION AWARDED INSURANCE CLAIMS
A record was set in the maritime industry with the early settlement of the insurance claims of the heirs of the victims of the tragic May 25, 2003 collision between Super Ferry 12 and the M/V San Nicholas. Shown in photo are some of the heirs of the 44 casualties in the tragic accident who received P100,000 from CGU Insurance through its adjuster Crawford and Company. The awarding ceremony took place at the conference room of Marina administrator Oscar Sevilla, who was present, including his chief of staff, Capt. Jovito Tamayo; and engineer B. Ortiz and Arnie Santiago of the Enforcement Office The San Nicholas Lines Inc. was represented by Lemuel Fabula, president and general manager; lawyer Arcelio Fetizanan, legal counsel; and Raul Gacula, assistant DPA. The CGU Insurance Co. was represented by Erwin Soriano, assistant manager for operations and marketing.

Unilever, Li & Fung Group opens new central distribution center

UNILEVER, together with the Li & Fung Distribution Group, inaugurated its new distribution center, the IDS Logistics Central Distribution Center (CDC) located on Industria Street, Quezon City.

The CDC will serve as warehouse and physical distribution facility of the Unilever businesses in Home & Personal Care (HPC) as well as Foods.

Unilever Philippines (HPC) is engaged in the manufacturing and marketing of brands such as Surf, Domex, Sunsilk, Creamsilk, Rexona, Vaseline, and Ponds.

While its Foods business, known as California Manufacturing Company, is known by its brands such as Knorr, Bestfoods, Lady's Choice, and Lipton.

On hand to witness the inauguration as the Guest of Honor was the Hon. Mar Roxas, Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, together with the top retail customers and business partners of both Li & Fung and Unilever.

Li & Fung is the principal company of IDS Logistics which is responsible for managing the CDC.

According to Jess Dinglasan, president, IDS Logistics, the CDC is a manifestation of Li & Fung's belief in the Philippines. "This facility represents a very substantial investment by Li & Fung in the Philippines, a concrete evidence of the company's confidence in the long-term potential of our country."

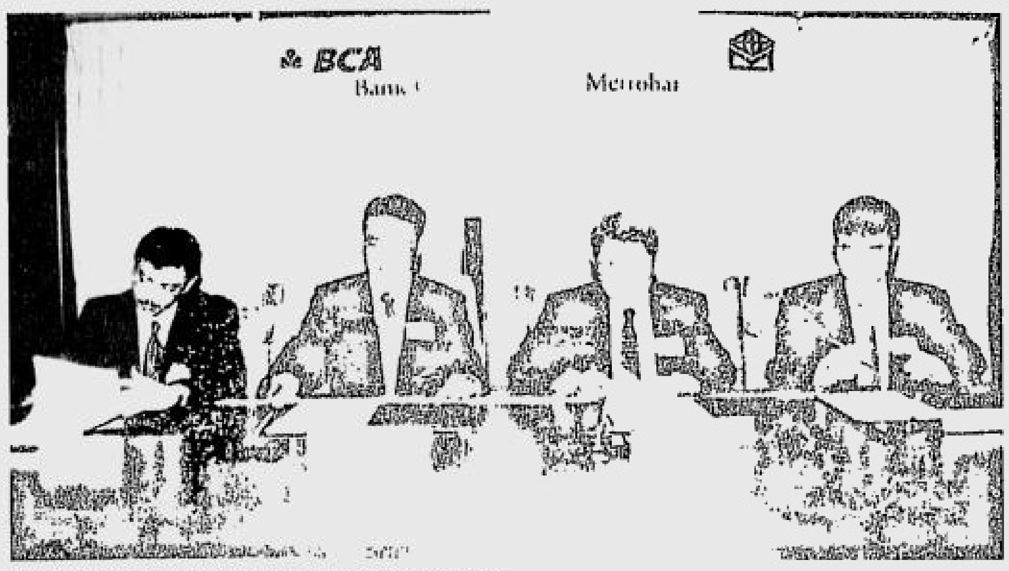
Howard Belton, National Chairman of Unilever in the Philippines, underscored the importance of this undertaking as part of Unilever's strategy to build a world-class supply chain.

"We want to reach all Filipinos, the poor as well as the rich, and that means we have to offer not only excellent products, but affordable ones," said Belton.

The CDC has a total area of 33,000 sqm. and can accommodate 43,000 pallet spaces. The warehouse has 31 loading bays, 9 for receiving of stocks and 22 for dispatching to customers.

Li & Fung (Distribution) Ltd., based in HongKong, was founded in 1998.

Its partnership with Unilever Philippines was formalized in 2001.



REMITTANCE AGREEMENT SEALED

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, has teamed up with Bank Central Asia (BCA), Indonesia's second largest bank, for a fund transfer arrangement to facilitate the remittance of BCA clients through Metrobank's branches abroad. Signing the joint remittance service agreement are (from left): Metrobank's vice president Jovencio Capulong and senior executive vice president Angelito Villanueva and BCA's deputy president/director As[illegible] Wirjadi and general manager for international banking division Rusli Hidayat

INQUIRER RENEWS CORPORATE HEALTHCARE PROGRAM WITH MEDICARD

Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI), the country's most widely read daily newspaper renews its corporate healthcare program with Medicard. Attending the contract signing held last Aug. 11 at the Hard Rock Café were (seated from left) Luis Montoya (Medicard EVP and GM), Dr. Nicanor Montoya (Medicard president), Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez (PDI president and CEO), David Valdes (PDI SVP for corporate services) and Jesse Francis Rebustillo (PDI corporate HR services head). Also present were (standing from left) Medicard's Coco Cervantes (assistant supervisor - marketing services), Kristine Valerio (marketing services assistant) and Miriam Villafuerte (marketing services manager) with PDI's Stella Panlilio (PMS administrator), Rachel Cucio (ESDC coordinator), Rose Viray (compensation management head) and Girly Brin (personnel assistant). PDI has been the HMO's valued client for more than 12 years now.

CDO-Foodsphere tries hand in fish canning, eyes export market

BUOYED by the strong market performance of its canned meat products, CDO-Foodsphere Inc. has embarked into bangus canning in a bid to expand its operation and get a slice of the marine products business.

The food company launched a new product line called Sea Quest Bangus, signifying its formal entry into the canned marine business.

Company officials have expressed confidence on the success of the new business unit banking on the remarkable experience they had with their canned beef product introduced in the market four years ago. Foodsphere launched CDO Karne Norte in 2001 and gained a sizeable share of the category in a short period.

The brand became a household name specially in the mass markets where the brand CDO has developed a strong franchise.

"With the introduction of Sea Quest line, Foodsphere targets the high-end and health-conscious markets," said Ed Reataza, vice president for sales and marketing.

"It will be initially offered in two variants and will be made available in all leading supermarkets nationwide at P34 per [illegible] aid, pointing out that for this price, consumers can get a healthy and convenient food.

"Sea Quest uses fresh bangus catch with no preservatives added," he said.

In terms of volume forecast, Reataza noted the emerging market for premium bangus among the health-conscious consumers and the export trade.

Countries like Brunei, Egypt and the United States are being looked to as probable markets.

Philippine milkfish producers and processors, however, have aired concerns about threats posed by Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and China which are also engaged in bangus production.

The Board of Investments and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources have joined hands to help the bangus sector address concerns to penetrate the world market.

The government agencies hand in hand with the private sector will come up with [illegible] ges that will enhance the competitiveness [illegible] f local bangus grow[illegible] nd stakehold[illegible] unified nationwide bangus industry.

ACRC CONDUCTS ORIENTATION

The AdBoard's Advertising Content Regulation Committee (ACRC) recently conducted an orientation entitled 'Na CDO ka na Naman' last July 29 at the SGV Hall Aim Conference Center. Over a hundred and sixty advertising practitioners gathered in this event to gain more detailed knowledge on the AdBoard's Code of Ethics and procedures relative to securing clearances for advertising materials. Shown in photo are: Jose Sy, chair of ACRC; Bien Fernando, chair of the technical subcommittee who also served as moderator during the open discussion, and Oscar Valenzuela, AdBoard executive director. This is another informative project of the AdBoard to ensure correct, ethical and professional standards of advertising practice in the Philippines.

Clips

Oasis at Starbucks 6750 Ayala Ave

TAKE a break from the concrete jungle to see Czarina "Reina" Cruz's solo show, Oasis, at Starbucks 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati from Oct. 10 to Nov. 20. On exhibit are small-scale mixed-media artworks: lush green worlds captured in little boxes. A graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, USA, Cruz uses playful objects to make serious art.

Philippine Bookfair off to Bacolod, Iloilo

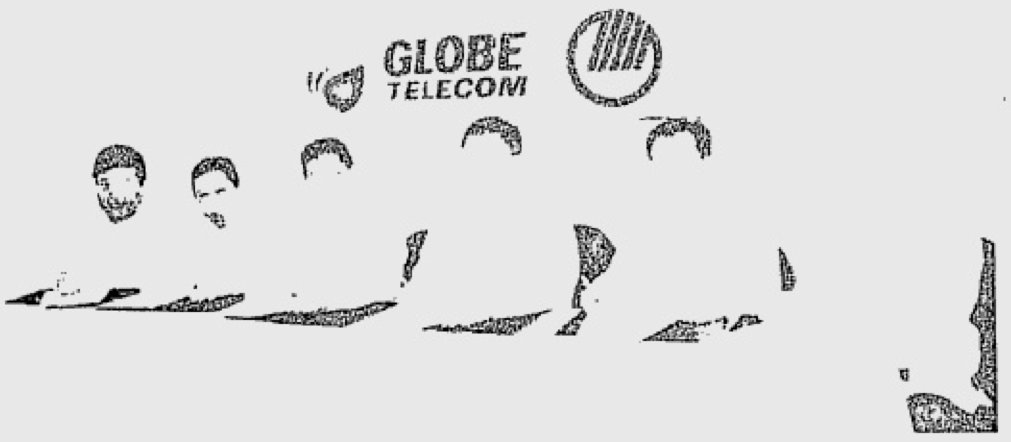
THE PHILIPPINE Bookfair is hopping over to Western Visayas for a much-awaited book caravan. It will be mounted on Oct. 9 to 12 in Robinsons Place Bacolod, Lacson Road, Mandalagan, Bacolod City. It will then continue its run on Oct. 16 to 19 in Robinsons Place Iloilo, Quezon St., Iloilo City. The PBF aims to unite local and foreign publishers in its efforts to promote reading and exchange of ideas among teachers, writers and publishers. Further, it offers a wide selection of books, especially textbooks, to people who have limited or no access to them. Its presence in the cities' commercial centers makes it easily accessible to the public. The Philippine Bookfair-Western Visayas is organized by Primetrade Asia Inc. in cooperation with the Association of Philippine Booksellers, the Asian Catholic Publishers Inc., the Book Development Association of the Philippines., and the Publishers' Organization of the Philippines.

Autohaus BMW, sponsors GEM golf tournament

AUTOHAUS BMW, the exclusive authorized BMW dealer, is the main sponsor of the annual golf tournament of the GEM Foundation, entitled-Health-is-GEM Foundation Golf Tournament 2003. Proceeds of this fund-raising event will provide shelter for abandoned children in Samar, as well as aid Christian communities in the Ifugao region. Over a hundred players will compete in the tournament including leaders of the land transport industry, executives in transport-related businesses and government officials. This year, Autohaus BMW will provide a brand new BMW R1150 as a hole-in-one prize. Participants will also be able to test-drive the new BMW 5 Series during the event.

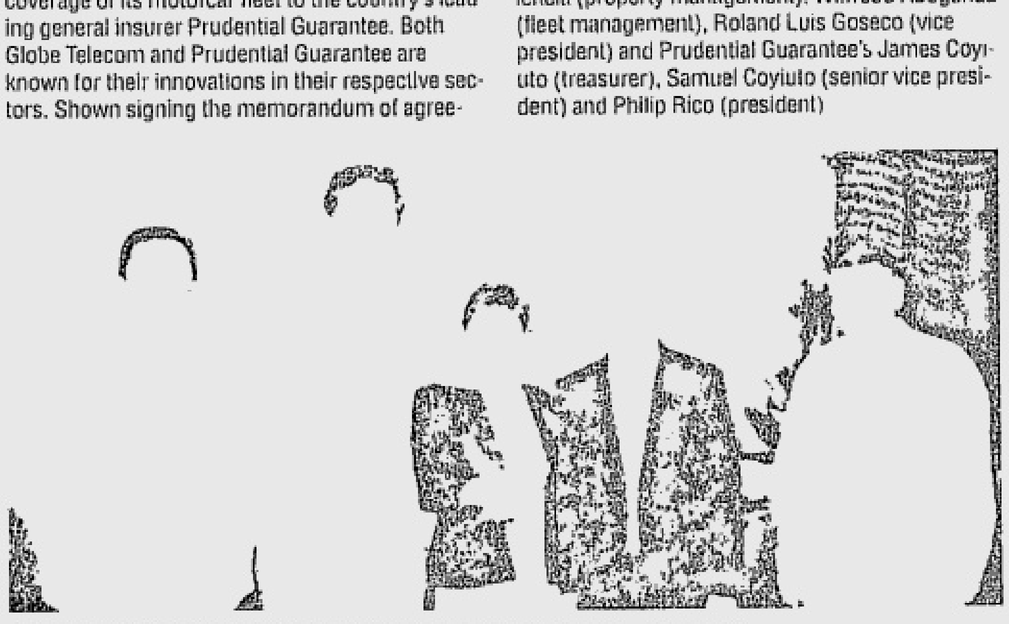
JOB FAIR AT GLORIETTA GOES HIGH TECH

The Jobz Employment Expo was one of the most well-attended job fairs organized - over the last six years - by Inq7 Interactive Inc.'s Job Market, in cooperation with various sponsors that include NIIT. Venue for the major annual activity was the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City. A global leader in IT education, NIIT is noted for its expertise in developing software solutions for renowned companies worldwide. NIIT provided ten computer units which helped job seekers post their resumes online and enter other relevant information in the Job Market Resume Reserve. The Jobz Employment Expo was participated in by some of the country's most reputable companies and institutions. Shown in photo during the contract signing event are (from right) Bartolome Silayan Jr., managing director of NIIT-Philippines; Paolo Prieto, president and CEO of Inq7 Interactive Inc.; and Brad Geiser, managing director of Geiser Maclang Communications Inc.



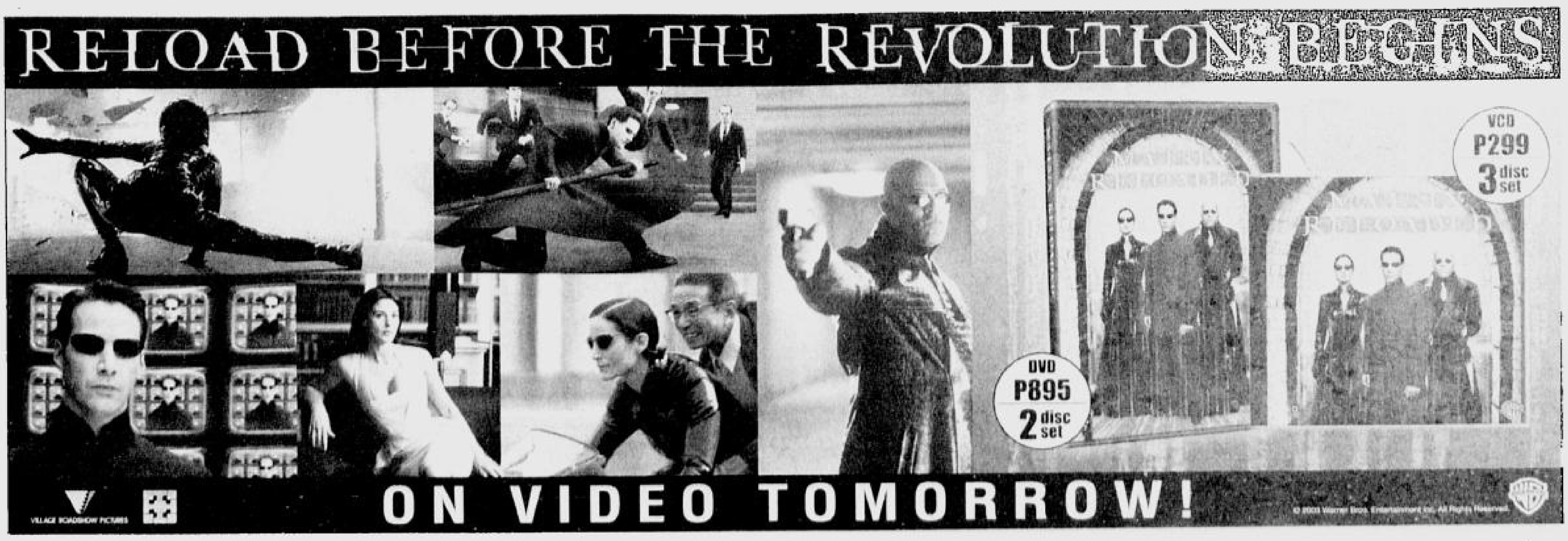
PRUDENTIAL GUARANTEE INSURES GLOBE MOTORCAR FLEET

Globe Telecom recently awarded the insurance coverage of its motorcar fleet to the country's leading general insurer Prudential Guarantee. Both Globe Telecom and Prudential Guarantee are known for their innovations in their respective sectors. Shown signing the memorandum of agree[illegible] left) Glo[illegible] Tele[illegible] Jose Cris Valencia (property management), Wilfredo Aboganda (fleet management), Roland Luis Goseco (vice president) and Prudential Guarantee's James Coyiuto (treasurer), Samuel Coyiuto (senior vice president) and Philip Rico (president)



ANCHOR SAVINGS BANK BAGS LANDBANK AWARD

Anchor Savings Bank (ASB) was recently awarded as the Most Active Countryside Partner by Land Bank of the Philippines. Every year, the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) gives recognition to their outstanding accredited financial institutions who have supported countryside development through efficient utilization of Land Bank's countryside/agricultural loan funds. Sh[illegible] in pho[illegible] (from left) Jaime Lazalin, dir[illegible] of ASB, [illegible] Isidro [illegible]macho, Secretar[illegible] [illegible] LBP [illegible] Anchor Savings [illegible] Gary Teves, president and CEO of La[illegible] Ruperto Carpio Jr., director of ASB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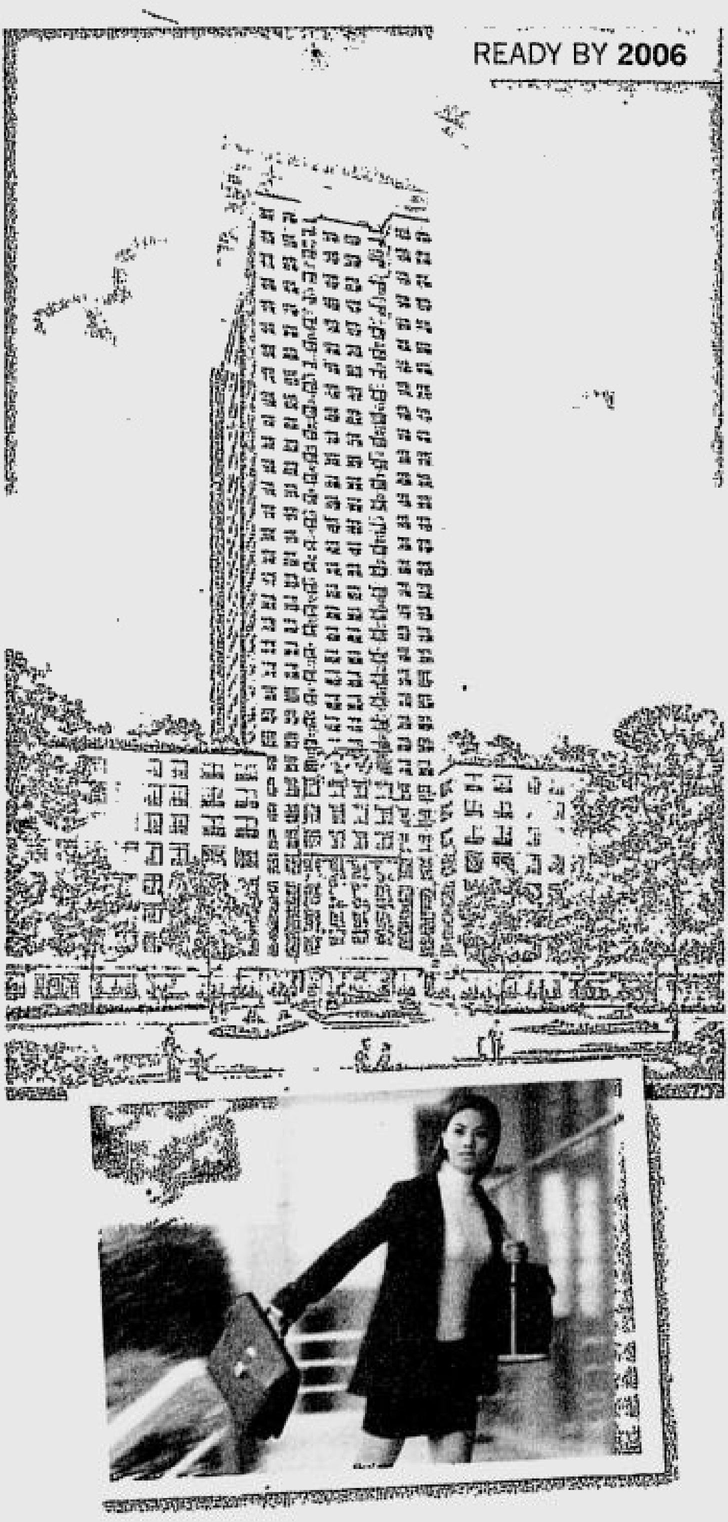

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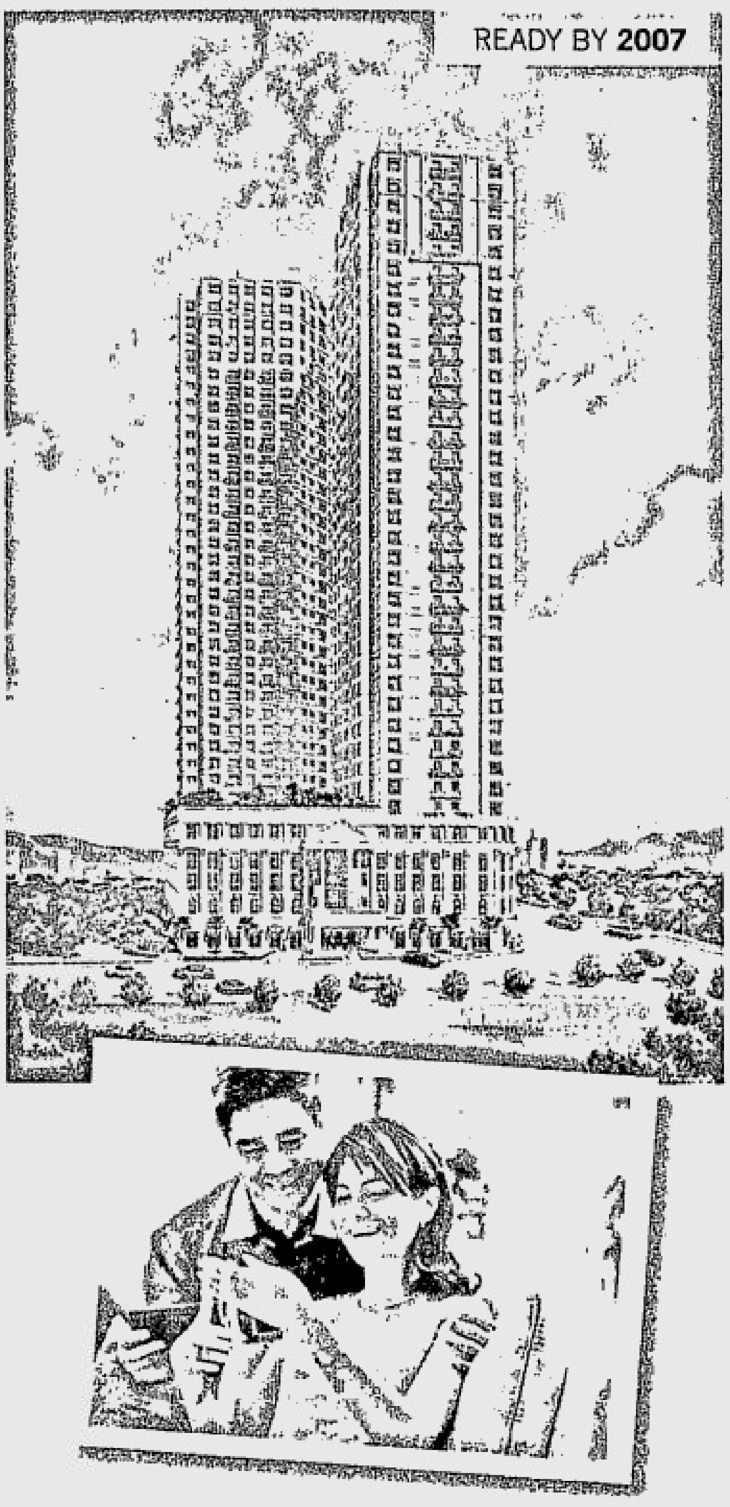
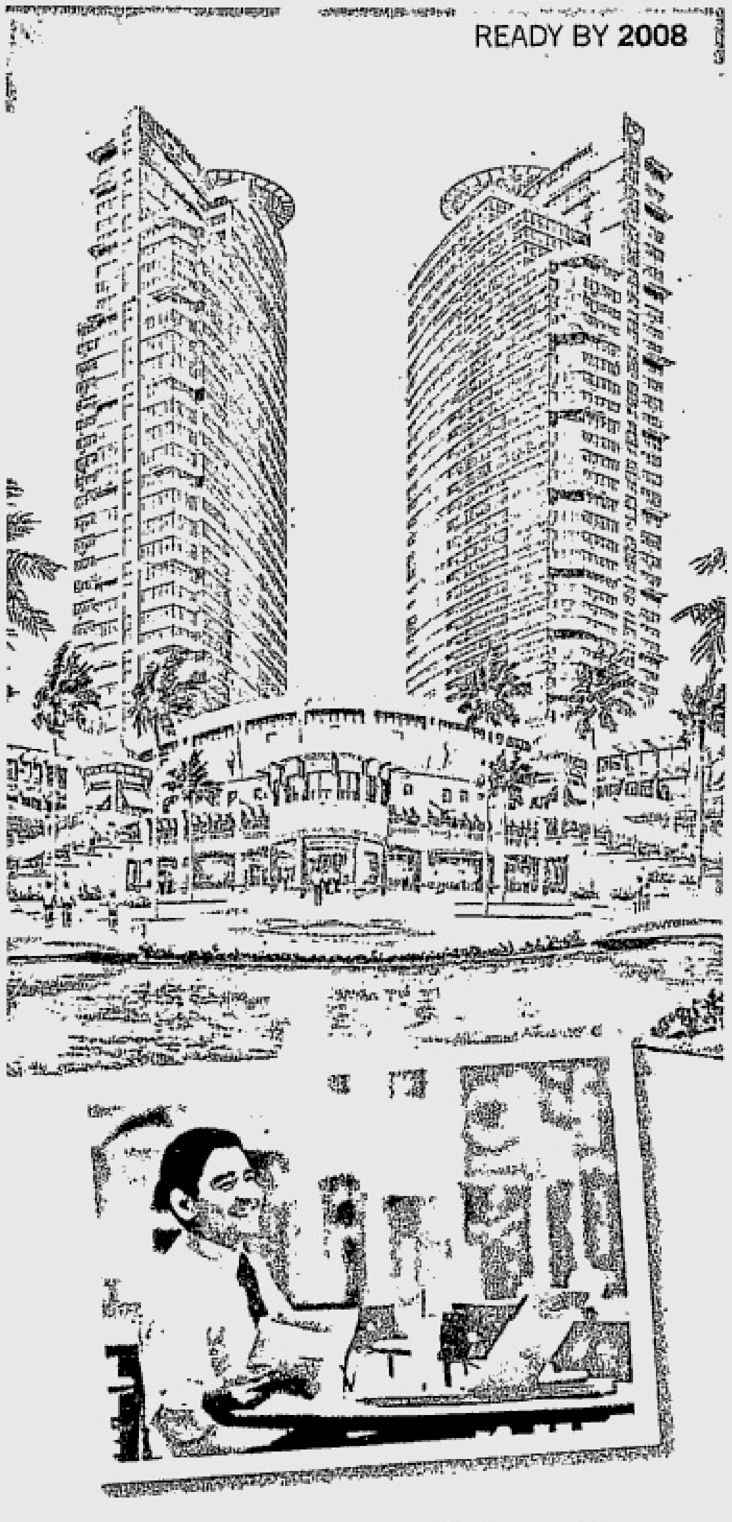
A three-tower address of vibrant style and sumptuous ease for successful young urban professionals. Pamper yourself in a deluxe studio pad or a three-bedroom suite. Feel young in a modern indoor spa. Relax in a lush tropical garden. Or shop in utmost comfort in an arcade at the ground floor.



ELEGANT.

The Grand Eastwood Palazzo

Whether in the Da Vinci or Michelangelo wing, whether in an executive studio or a four-bedroom suite, own a lifestyle of grandeur... and pleasure. Live high amid amenities such as a Palladian-styled pool, a luxurious spa and fitness center, a library-lounge, a children's play area and specialty shops at the ground floor.



HIGH-SPIRITED.

Eastwood Parkview

Feel the spirit and energy of downtown Miami in a home that celebrates nature and leisure. Savor life above a central park teeming with graceful palm trees, winding walkways and a sparkling lagoon. Enjoy dining and shopping in a four-story mall beneath your home. Or leave the world behind in your own playground with a swimming pool, gym, sauna and children's play area.

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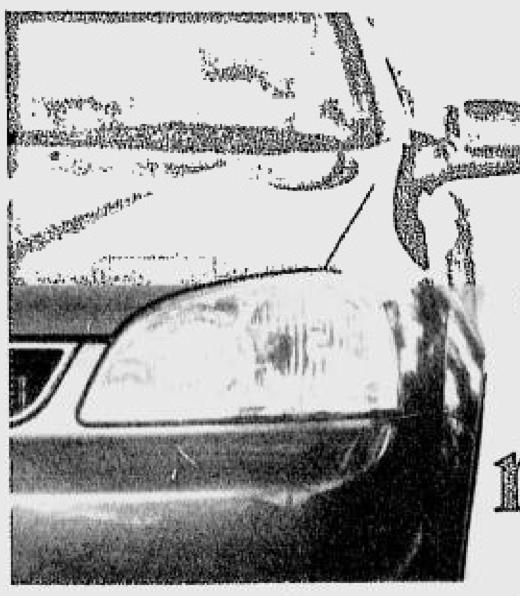


THE BIG jewel effect head lamps express a feeling of self-confidence. The clear-glass covers offer an unhindered view of the technology of the three cylindrical lamps of each unit.

'New kid on the block' rolls off Pattaya Hills

THAI cultural troupe greets motoring journalists.

By Tessa R. Salazar

(First of three parts)

ANY new kid on the block is almost certainly not welcome, especially in this country where "crab mentality" still exists. The new one is the odd-man out—a threat to the "comfort zone" every old-timer in the block has worked hard to establish.

Can it also be true in the local car industry? Here, the Toyotas, the Hondas, the Mitsubishis, the Nissans and the Fords have been the established entities in the 1600 segment, and they have been constantly shuffling over one another for leadership. A newcomer would be hard put to compete with these "old-timers" who have been in the Philippines for up to a quarter of a century.

So, who dares enter the local "lion's den?" That someone would have to have the confidence to take on these Japanese and American giants. But confidence alone won't topple the enemy. An arsenal as formidable as what the competitor has is essential. And then, that someone must possess eternal optimism, and look at the destructive "crab mentality" as something positive. Instead of letting the crabs pull him down, he would pull everyone up.

THAT familiar chevy bow tie

GM's newest baby Optra was recently dubbed the 'Corolla killer' in India

'Corolla killer'

That someone can only be General Motors—a global automotive giant that has been absent for too long in this little corner of the globe. Now it's time to put that big foot down. Well, the Optra down. General Motors' newest baby Optra was recently dubbed the "Corolla killer" in India, forcing many car manufacturers in that country to rethink their strategies. One could just imagine the dismay of the old-timers in India. Going by GM's global reputation, the Optra as being worthy to be in the class of a Corolla or a Civic must be the understatement of the year.

But GM says it isn't here to vanquish its enemies. It says it isn't asking for heaven and earth. Not that soon, anyway. For now, it is hoping Optra would have its own place under the tropical sun. Since its Aug. 30 launch in the country, Optra's 150 units have been delivered by GM. The firm is expecting that number of buyers to increase this October, with the full implementation of the new excise tax law. The 1.6L manual transmission is now being offered at P635,000, and the AT variant is now at P675,000 (A P60,000 reduction compared to the previous pricing). GMPh says it currently has a 15-day reservation on the Optra.

To be initially introduced in the Philippines are the 1.6L variants. The introduction of the 1.8L—said to give Altis a run for its money—is still on the planning stage.

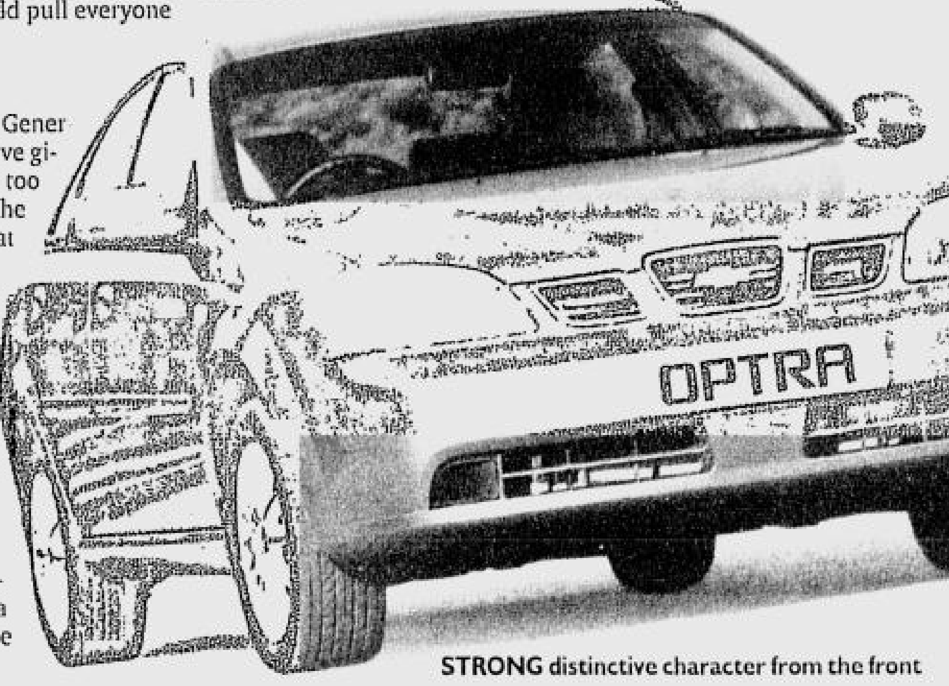
Based on Optra's positioning in the country, GM is targeting the Corolla 1.6 E and J variant, Civic VTi, Ford Lynx Ghia, Lancer MX/GLS and Sentra 1.6 GS/DS.

Ride and drive

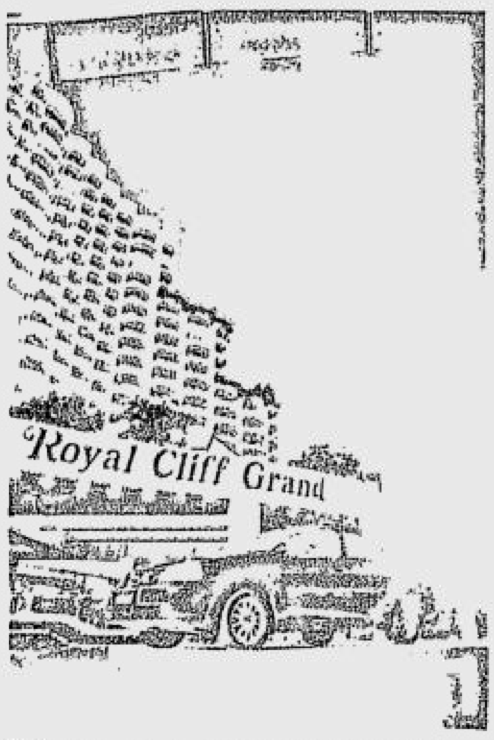
And so, on this note, four motoring journalists from the Philippines joined about 40 others from Southeast Asia for a three-day ride and drive with the "new kid on the block."—the newest member of the Chevrolet family—made distinct with the gold Chevy bow tie.

Four variants of the Optra—the 1.8 LT, 1.8LS (both automatic), the 1.6 AT and the 1.6 MT—were used and "abused" for this trip.

"Motoring Today" host Butch Gamboa, motoring editors Pinky Colminares of the Bulletin and Dong Magsajo of the Star as well as this writer were escorted by GM Philippines' Bobby Shaw for the Optra ride and drive from the GM Thailand Rayong plant to the paved highways of Rayong, to the hills of Pattaya and back to the Royal Cliff Beach Resort in Pattaya.



STRONG distinctive character from the front



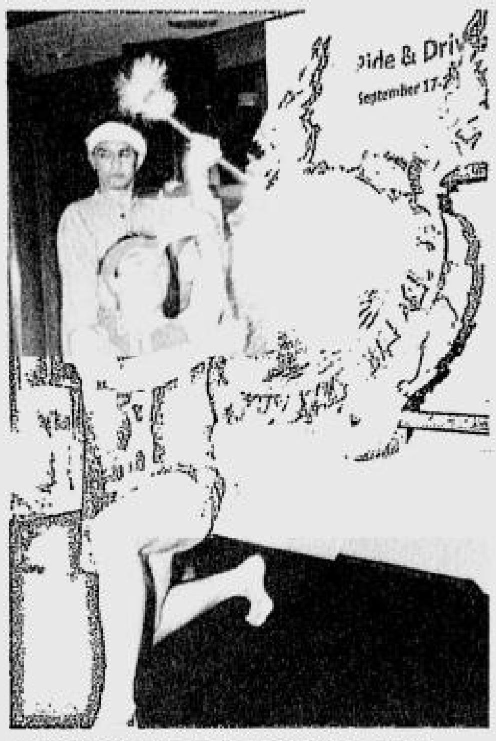
OPTRA flaunts itself in front of the Royal Cliff, Pattaya

But before burning rubber and experiencing the much-bragged-about "quiet ride" or "inner peace" as its creators called it, I experienced my own "calming days" when, prior to this event, I stayed for three days in Bangkok visiting temples, shopping and strolling—basically recharging myself.

Optra in the flesh

Seeing the 1.8-liter Optra in the flesh for the second time gave us the impression that it was an imposing figure, with its powerful lines, defined contours and accentuated shoulders.

In spite of that, however, we didn't expect such simplicity from the hands of world-famous Italian car designer Pininfarina. Pininfarina managing director Lorenzo Ramaciotti explained, however, that the legacy of simplicity and the power of proportion were continued with the new Chevy Optra compact sedan.



OPENING salvo to the beat of the drum

The big jewel effect head lamps express a feeling of self-confidence. The clear-glass covers offer an unhindered view of the technology of the three cylindrical lamps each unit.

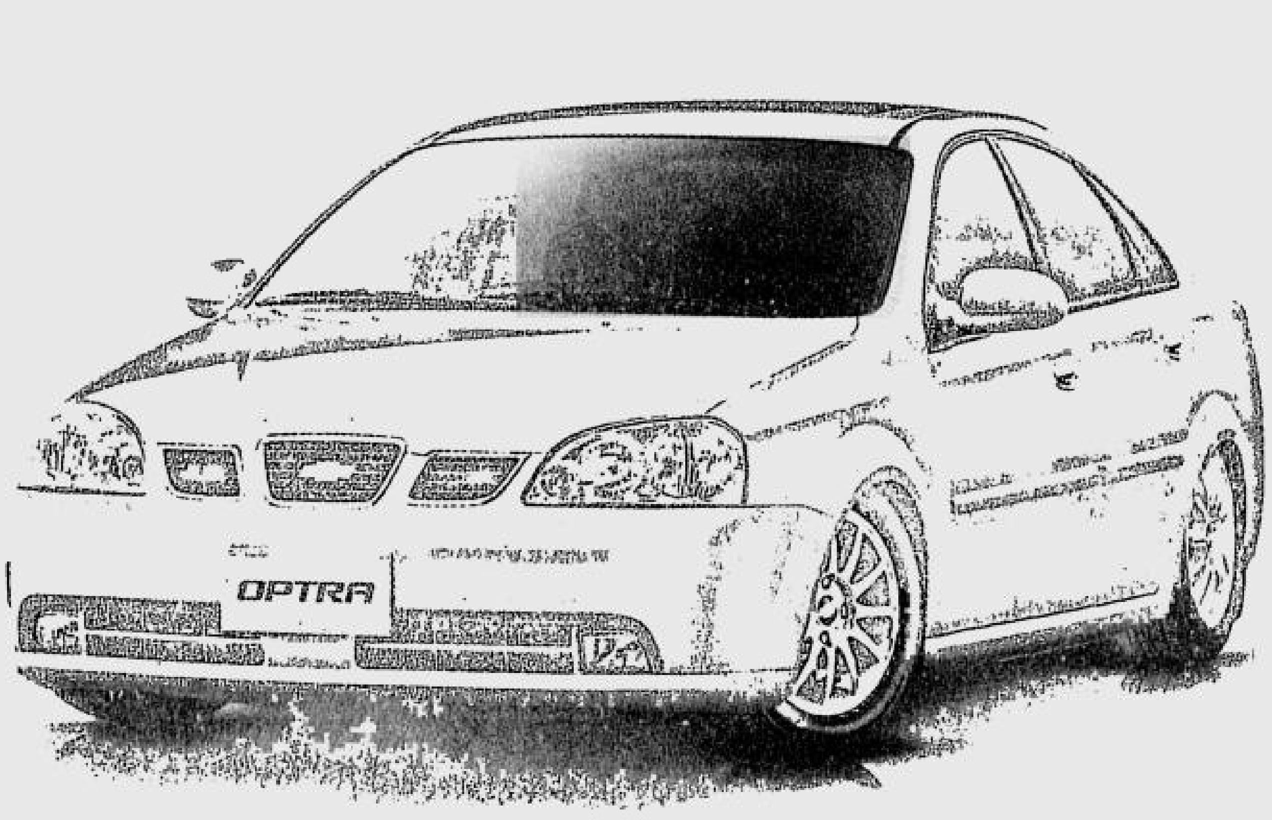
The Optra roofline drops down to the high rear section, and is likened to a coupé. The prominent wheel arches give the vehicle a solid stance.

Before the "drive" part of the tour, the motoring journalists were given the chance to go downtown via commuter jeepney. We walked the "wild streets" of Pattaya, considered the red-light-cum-shopping-district, frequented by Westerners and made secure by burly volunteer tourist policemen.

A few drinks and some tall (and not-so-tall) tales of each other's motoring triumphs and travails in their respective countries later, the journalists were forming a bond of some sorts, and nationalities were blurred. But my Pinoy sense of pride came to the fore when the featured bands played, and the group remarked that that such talented musicians could only come from the Philippines.

Tomorrow would be a grueling 200-km drive. So, reluctant to let go of our glasses and the band playing, we went back to the hotel. We hadn't yet started its engine, but the Optra was already having its way with us.

(Next issue: Seeing through an Optra)



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Zafira 1.8 AT	P 1,115,000	**P 995,000**	P 120,000
Aveo 1.5 LT MT	P 595,000	**P 545,000**	P 50,000
Aveo 1.5 LT AT	P 635,000	**P 585,000**	P 50,000

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Honda slashes prices of car models

THE FULL implementation of Republic Act 9224, an act rationalizing the excise tax on automobiles, resulted to the lowering of prices for passenger cars like Civic, Accord and the City.

The price reductions range from as low as P40,000 to as high as P200,000.

Reduced prices

The Accord 2.0 VTi automatic transmission (AT), for instance, is now priced at P1,080,000 from the old price of P1,280,000. The 2.0 VTi-L AT (power) is now at P1,220,000 from P1,398,000.

The Civic variants' prices were slashed between P58,000 and P94,000. Its 1.5 Lxi manual transmission (MT) is now priced at P660,000; the 1.5Lxi AT, P690,000; the 1.6VTi MT, P710,000; and the 1.6 VTi AT, P745,000.

The Civic 1.6 VTi-S MT now costs P760,000. The 1.6 VTi-S AT is priced at P795,000. The 1.6 VTi-S MT (leather) is now at P800,000 from the previous P894,000 and the 1.6 VTi-S AT (leather) is now at P835,000 from P929,000.

The prices for the City variants were slashed between P30,000 and P40,000.

The City's 1.3 A MT is now at P499,000; the 1.3 S MT, P539,000; the 1.3 S CVT, P579,000; the 1.3 S MT with ABS/SRS, P579,000; and the 1.3 S CVT with ABS/SRS, P619,000.

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Accord P200T lower; kudos to Ford and Isuzu

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

WITH PRICES of cars finally plummeting down as a result of the new excise tax on vehicles, expect a mad dash for cars in the run-up to Christmas. Already, the Honda Accord comes at P200,000 less! If that's not a bargain, I don't know what is.

The new tax scheme is a boon to everybody—carmaker, taxpayer and government. Its effect will be far-reaching, if not felt on a long-term basis. Since taxation of a car being purchased is now based on its factory price, it can be said that the not-so-rich will have bigger chances of owning a car than before when to own a vehicle was almost confined to the near-rich strata of society, not to mention the filthy rich. Promos now come on zero-interest rates among many car companies, another big plus for the above-average-income families.

There was tension among car manufacturers when lawmakers took so long to pass the new law. Plans had been delayed, projects put on hold and major policy makers in Japan inconvenienced by legislative delays. But now that almost everything is in place again, the market forces are back at play. As the saying goes, all's well that ends well.

* * *

I salute Ford Motor Co. Phils. for its robust efforts in producing for-export-only vehicles. This year, its target of exporting 14,000 units is well within range.

The papers said Ford has rolled out 10,000 units already for shipment to Indonesia and Thailand. I raise a glass to that.

Ford's target actually is to produce 100,000 units in five years in its Sta. Rosa plant in Laguna, a sprawling 30,000-square-meter complex built at a staggering cost of P4 billion. Among its fleet of vehicles being built for export are the Ford Escape, Ford Lynx, Mazda Tribute and Mazda 323. Only recently, Ford unwrapped its recent babes in Ford Ranger Limited Edition and the Escape 4x2 AT. Ford will soon launch the much-ballyhooed Ford Everest, a 2.5-liter inter-cooled turbo-diesel SUV that had its baptism of fire in Bangkok recently after it got rave reviews in the 24th Bangkok International Motor Show.

"We are now second to Thailand, operation-wise, in the Asean region," Ford Philippines president Henry T. Co said. "We want to continue building our export program to create career opportunities for our growing number of employees."

Indeed, Ford Phils. has been doing its part in cementing Ford's lofty position as the world's No. 2 largest automaker.

* * *

The BMW National Golf Finals will be held tomorrow, Friday, in Sta. Elena. The winners will advance to Portugal for the BMW International Cup set for next month. If plans don't miscarry, I will join my Insan Taby Tabaniag and good neighbor Jake Ayson in officiating the tournament.

...And speaking of golf, Toyota is the official car of the U-Bix-Riviera Pro-Am on Nov. 18-22 at the Langer Course of the Riviera Golf & Country Club in Silang, Cavite. Through the trio of Makoto Ono, Danny Isla and Ariel de Jesus, Toyota is giving away a car for the first hole-in-one in the Celebrity Pro-Am on Nov. 18 and another Toyota vehicle for the first hole-in-one feat during the four-day championship.

And, of course, it goes without saying that Mitsubishi will once again be the official vehicle in the 88th Philippine Open also set next month, with DHL's top honcho Rod V. Feliciano shelling out nearly $200,000 for the Asian PGA event that will showcase parbusters from America, Europe, Australia and Asia trading shots with the country's best led by Frankie Miñoza.

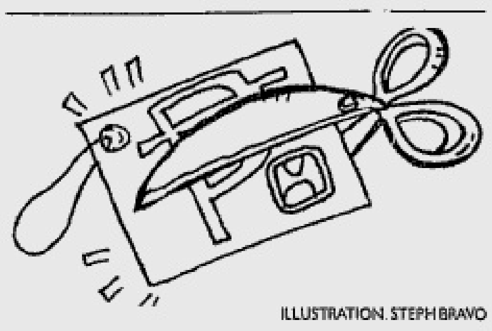

ILLUSTRATION. STEPH BRAVO

Isuzu has also joined the sports bandwagon when it provided Deflef Schrempf a Trooper for the former NBA superstar's use as he went about his business to Batangas, Olongapo and Metro Manila spreading the goodwill of his Adidas Understand the Game Campaign. That was made possible through Myrna Gonzales, who went out of her way to make it happen despite receiving the request on a short notice.

Hectic was Deflef's schedule, which included appearances in numerous forums—at the US Embassy for a dinner with some dignitaries, an exclusive round-table discussion with selected sports writers and a visit to the UAAP Finals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Deflef, with whom I had the honor to pose for a photo snap in 1996 during a stopover in an airport in London on my way to Rome, wowed Filipino basketball fans with his NBA style of teaching them the rudiments of the game. And, of course, he was all praises for the Isuzu Trooper. "Super Trooper," said he.

Here's a glass to Myrna and Isuzu for being part of this historic visit by the many-time NBA All-Star and a winner twice of the Sixth Man Player award in the NBA.

* * *

Marilin Torre, the wife of chess grandmaster Eugene Torre, called up to say the urine test system for applicants of a driver's license in Baguio's LTO stinks. "They don't have a clean, decent toilet for female applicants," she said. "The toilet being used there is for both male and female. It doesn't even have a decent door or curtain to shield us from peeping toms."

Paging GMA, if not the LTO big boss in Baguio.

* * *

I have received encouraging text messages and letters in praise of the ongoing rehabilitation/expansion of the Northern Luzon Expressway.

"Yes, Mr. Mendoza, you are right," said one, "the construction system there has improved a lot. The flow of traffic has now become smooth as silk. Please don't stop being the watchdog of NLE. People at MNTC seem to listen to you."

Thank you. I'm just doing my job. But I do hope that the MNTC will keep up the good job, if not add more improvement on their system if only to abide by their avowed mission to give the public only the best, now, and when they run the show there once the rehabilitation/expansion is over.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Obey construction signs at all times. One miscalculation/indiscretion and it could be costly. A motorist has died after ramming his car into a bulldozer; he ignored the sign, "Slow down, heavy equipment crossing."

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

4X2

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CR-V

They don't take driving mildly

THE JOB description of a Formula One (F1) driver can be summed up in three sentences: Step on the gas pedal every time you can. Step on the brake pedal only when you have to. Overtake every car in front of you before you reach the finish line.

The fourth and fifth items (if they do in fact exist) would merely be optional: Try to keep our multimillion-dollar race car intact for the season. And while you're at it, stay alive, too.

Two drivers who work under such conditions are Jarno Trulli, 29, and Fernando Alonso, 22—the men behind the steering wheel for the charging Mild Seven Renault F1 Team.

"Driving is a constant challenge with yourself to push beyond your limits, to push further. But it's also about teamwork. It's amazing to think that I'm carrying the expectations of over 500 people in the pits, and back at the factory," says Trulli about his profession.

With so much hope riding on their backs, it is not hard to imagine why Trulli and Alonso do not take their driving mildly.

ALONSO, 22, is the youngest F1 driver in history to win a Grand Prix.

TRULLI, 29, has a reputation for undiluted speed.

Men of speed

Throughout his career, the Italian Trulli has been a much sought-after driver racing for reputable F1 teams such as Minardi, Prost, Jordan and currently the Mild Seven Renault F1 Team. F1 analysts and aficionados regard Trulli as one of the 10 best drivers in the world.

On the other hand, Alonso, the third youngest driver in F1 history, has proven that he deserves to rev it up with the best of them. Then 19, this driver from Spain finished as the 10th best driver in the world by the end of the 2001 season. This year, at age 22, Alonso is the youngest ever F1 grand prix winner at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

Outside the racetrack

Perhaps it is the mettle which race car drivers are made of. Or maybe the irresistible seduction of danger. But even in their private recreational hours, both drivers take up extreme sports. Trulli loves rock climbing while Alonso takes up canoeing and rafting.

But make no mistake about it. For these young men who work and play under breakneck conditions (literally), there is life outside the racetrack, a life wherein the dangers of their occupation are relegated to the backseat as they commiserate with the dangers that the less fortunate face in the real world. This is a life of charity.

Trulli and Alonso are constantly involved in fund-raising football matches. Over the past year, the two have been involved in charity soccer games wherein the beneficiaries were earthquake and land mine victims and the financially needy.

In one of these charity activities held before the Austrian Grand Prix, Trulli and Alonso were part of a team of professional race car drivers that took on an all-star team of Australian athletes and celebrities. The event raised a total of US$100,000 for land mine victims, a testament to the popularity as well as social responsibility of these drivers.

At one level, the F1 driver is unlike any other professional in the world. But at yet another level, they are just ordinary members of the human race who also carry in their hearts the same seeds of compassion, sympathy and empathy.

Raffle promo

Eight lucky Filipinos will have the chance to see and meet Trulli and Alonso live during the Malaysian Grand Prix slated in Sepang this November. Mild Seven, the title sponsor of the Renault F1 Team, will be giving away eight all-expenses-paid trips to the Sepang Formula One race circuit in Malaysia plus 1,000 Malaysian ringgit in pocket money as grand prizes for its "F1 Slipstream" raffle promo. Other prizes for the promo are authentic team mountain bikes, jackets, backpacks and other premium items.

As the premier educators for F1 in the Philippines, Mild Seven has already mounted a string of successful promos carrying F1 racing themes. In 2001, the company staged the "Mild Seven F1 Speedshow" which introduced the R201 race car to the local racing aficionados. Last year, "Mild Seven XLR8: The Mild Seven F1 Experience" starred Jenson Button, one of the top 10 racers in the world and the first F1 driver to visit the Philippines, and the R202 race car.

EXTREME AUTO BYTES

WHAT is the difference between DOHC and a twin cam engine? —*Prudencio Samonte Jr. of Bataan*

It's one and the same thing. Twin cam engines are also known as DOHC or double overhead cam. Both terms refer to an engine that has two camshafts per cylinder bank. The camshafts have the job of opening the valves that let air into and exhaust out of the engine. The camshaft uses rotating lobes, called cams, that push against the valves to open them.

Springs on the valves return them to their closed position. This is a critical job, and can have a great impact on an engine's performance at different speeds.

Generally, engines with DOHC are higher performance engines; they produce more power, and can run at higher speeds.

The main benefit of dual overhead cams is that they allow an engine to have four valves per cylinder. Each camshaft operates two of the valves, one camshaft handles the intake valves, and one handles the exhaust valves. Having one camshaft responsible for intake valves and another for exhaust valves is more efficient than one cam for both intake and exhaust. The system typically provides better fuel efficiency and performance.

Having four valve heads generally results in two benefits: greater valve area and lighter valve train. A lighter valve train mass allows the valve train to respond more quickly and this results in higher engine revs. This ability to optimize the angle of the valves to the cylinder bore and the inlet and exhaust tracts allows your engine to breathe better. The more air and fuel in and out means more power.

X-TRAIL

Nissan X-Trail orders exceed target

NISSAN Motor Philippines Inc.'s new X-Trail has well exceeded its target forecasts and Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. of Japan, supplier of completely knocked-down (CKD) parts for the X-Trail says it must rush to cope with the demand.

"After we made public our new prices for the X-Trail, our production has doubled and the X-Trail is already taking up the major section of our assembly line," NMPI president and chief executive officer Leman Lee explains. "We increased our orders for the parts and despite this, the CKD packs from Japan will take a little while to keep up with the demand."

Reservations

Says Lee: "This is why we are encouraging our prospective X-Trail buyers to make their reservations now to be assured of allocation and delivery, until the supply normalizes. We have no choice now but to apply the first-come, first-served rule, as a result."

According to him, this seems to be the phenomenon worldwide. Nissan Japan is receiving huge orders of X-Trail from other global markets as well. CKD orders of overseas distributions are filled subject to production capacity limit, Lee adds.

NMPI originally targeted a 50-unit per month sales volume for the X-Trail but so far sales have exceeded the 100-unit-per-month mark.

"We've sold 100 units just a week after the July 23 launch," remarks Virgilio L. Diwa, NMPI vice president for sales and marketing. "For the month of October we adjusted our plans to three times the preexcise tax volume. At the rate the reservations are coming in we must readjust to four times the original target."

Price reduction

The prices of the X-Trail have been reduced in line with the new excise tax law despite the aforementioned obstacle. As a result, prices came down to as little as P1,270,000 for the 250X which sports a class-leading 2.5-liter engine on a 4x4 drivetrain. The 250X was priced at P1,495,000 before the new excise tax law became effective. The 2.0-liter 200X is now P1,165,000 from P1,333,000 and the 2.0-liter 4x2 goes for P1,059,000 a decrease of P140,000 from the original P1,199,000.

The differences between the old prices and the new ones could be attributed in large part to the higher tax paid to the government under the old excise tax law.

Taxing tires in Hong Kong

From page C4

Steady decline

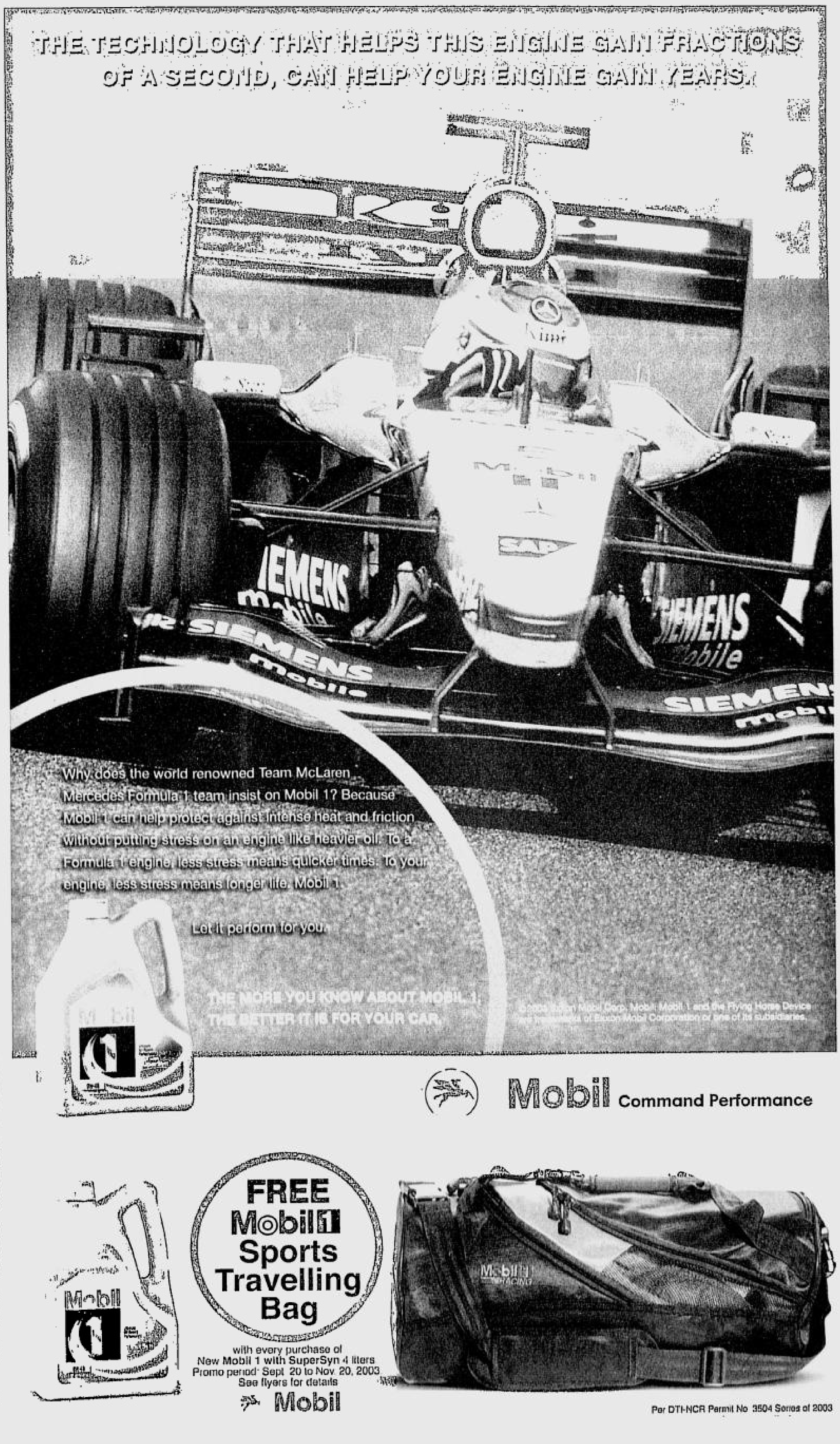
As a sales expert, Rushworth agonizes over the steady decline of car sales in Hong Kong. In 1997, he recalls, the industry sold 39,000 units. But over the years, annual car sales slumped to 26,000, then to 23,000 and this year the forecast is down to around 19,000, a 28 percent drop from 2002. Because of Hong Kong's economic downtrend that was aggravated by the SARS epidemic, the sales of Toyota, Honda, Nissan, Mazda, Peugeot and other marques have plummeted by 30 percent. Dealers slashed prices by 30 to 40 percent, but sales remain stagnant at 1,600 units a month while in Singapore, which has half the population and half the land area of Hong Kong and twice more taxes, car sales average 5,200 units a month.

However, luxury cars are prospering, Rushworth notes. BMW's market share rose from 8.8 percent last year to 11.7 percent this year, Mercedes-Benz from 8.26 percent to 15.31 percent, Porsche from 1.25 percent to 1.26 percent. The only loser in the premium class was Volvo, whose market share plunged to 4 percent from 46 percent, prompting Swire Pacific to sell the Volvo dealership to Wearnes Motors last week.

The uptick in luxury car sales, Rushworth says, points to only one conclusion: the rich in Hong Kong are still rich or getting richer, while the poor are getting poorer. But then this is also true in other Asian states including the Philippines, where BMW and Volvo sales have increased.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph.



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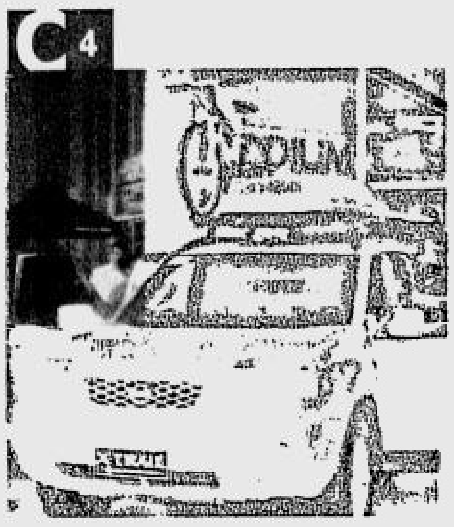


VISUAL DELIGHT FOR SHOPPERS To familiarize the public with the features of Thule roof rack systems and how it can double your vehicle's loading capacity, Thule/EGR Phils., in cooperation with Nissan Gallery Ortigas will display a Thule-equipped X-Trail in selected malls and shopping centers in Metro Manila.

MORE women are now attracted to the pickup truck's versatility, comfort and ease of operation.

Pickup trucks get women's nod

By Charles E. Buban

MALE drivers like to brag that their pickups are just like them—rugged, versatile, tough, all-around dependable and powerful.

Perhaps smooth and more refined should be added to this list since more and more women are starting to fall in love with this class of vehicle.

"You would be surprised to find that men aren't the only ones infatuated," said Porti Vencer national marketing manager of Norkis Automotive Resources Corp., exclusive distributor of Dodge Dakota, a pickup truck and one of their fast selling vehicle. "It's more like being empowered—getting in to something that previously was only for the men," he explained.

Built also for women

He revealed that another reason more women are buying pickup trucks nowadays is that today's new breed of pickup trucks were designed to also consider them.

"Gone were the days of pickup trucks that were hard to steer, give you bumpy ride or whose interior comforts would make even the Marines complain," Vencer said.

Pickup trucks today, according to him, offer levels of craftsmanship, levels of options and levels of features that people would never think they would find in a pickup truck.

Citing their pickup truck, Vencer said although the 2003 Dodge Dakota Quad Cab is somewhat larger than most compact pickups here in the market (and the only one available with V-8 engine power), this four-wheel-drive monster has an unusually tight turning circle that makes negotiating in tight spaces or congested parking lots less tricky.

No longer intimidated

Women should not be intimidated by a pickup truck.

"If you can drive a van, you can drive a truck," said a woman owner of a Dakota who found the pickup truck "nice and comfy"—not the kind of adjectives usually associated with pickups of old.

"Utility is important and I use the back for loading up almost anything. I prefer larger and more storage compartments," she explained.

On what features helped women owners get convinced to choose a pickup truck, they enumerated adjustable steering wheel column (especially for smaller women), smoother automatic transmissions or at least easier-to-shift manual transmissions, power amenities, leather seats and bigger passenger cabins for hauling family members.

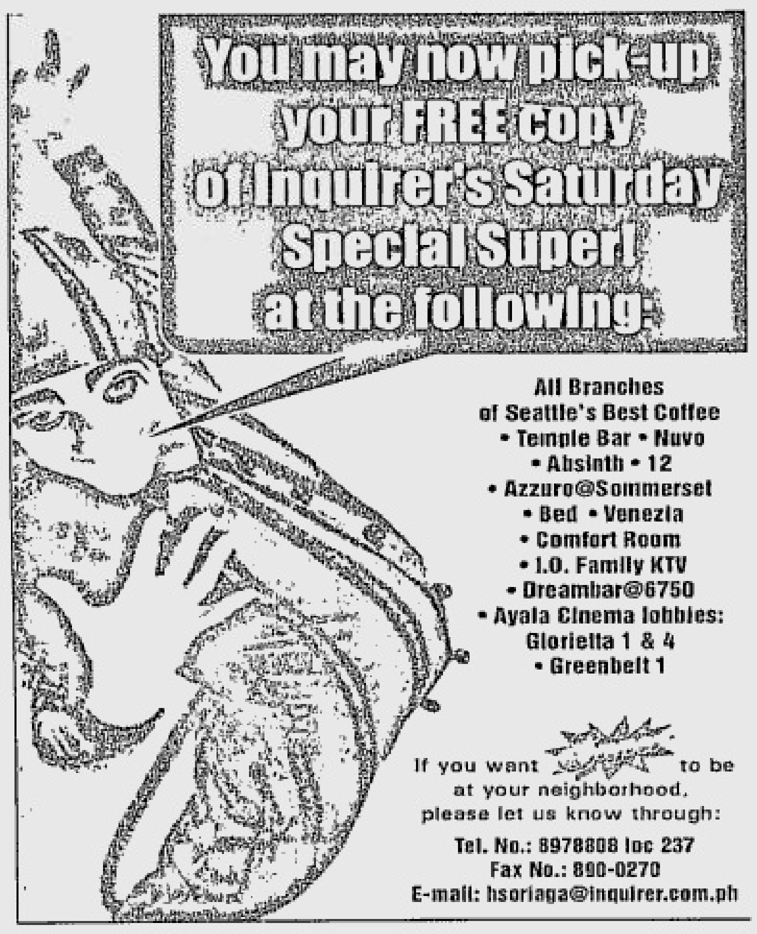
Crossover vehicles

Not only that pickup trucks offer softer, more car-like rides nowadays, but also they acquired safety features that were once more common in sedans and sport utility vehicles (SUVs).

"Apart from airbags and seatbelts, pickup trucks nowadays carry lower anchors and upper tether anchors for child seats, engine immobilizer and keyless entry for vehicle security system, overhead console, power locks, mirrors and windows," described Vencer.

He added that today's pickup trucks also blend function and personal use, more becoming like a "family" vehicle.

Indeed, with these combinations of features, women who never owned a pickup truck before are now being convinced of buying one today.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Taxing tires in Hong Kong

HONG KONG—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region's (HKSAR) government is proposing that all new tires be registered and taxed, and the Hong Kong Automobile Association (HKAA) is supporting it.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

HKAA president Michael Rushworth, who has been a member of the Government Advisory Council on the Environment for the past eight years, says that new car buyers will be required to pay an annual tax of HK$100 for the five tires that come with the car, to de-register the tires when they are replaced with new ones and to register and pay the tax on the new tires. The government will use the tire tax revenue to import and operate machinery that breaks down old tires and recycles the rubber into bricks that can be used to pave roads.

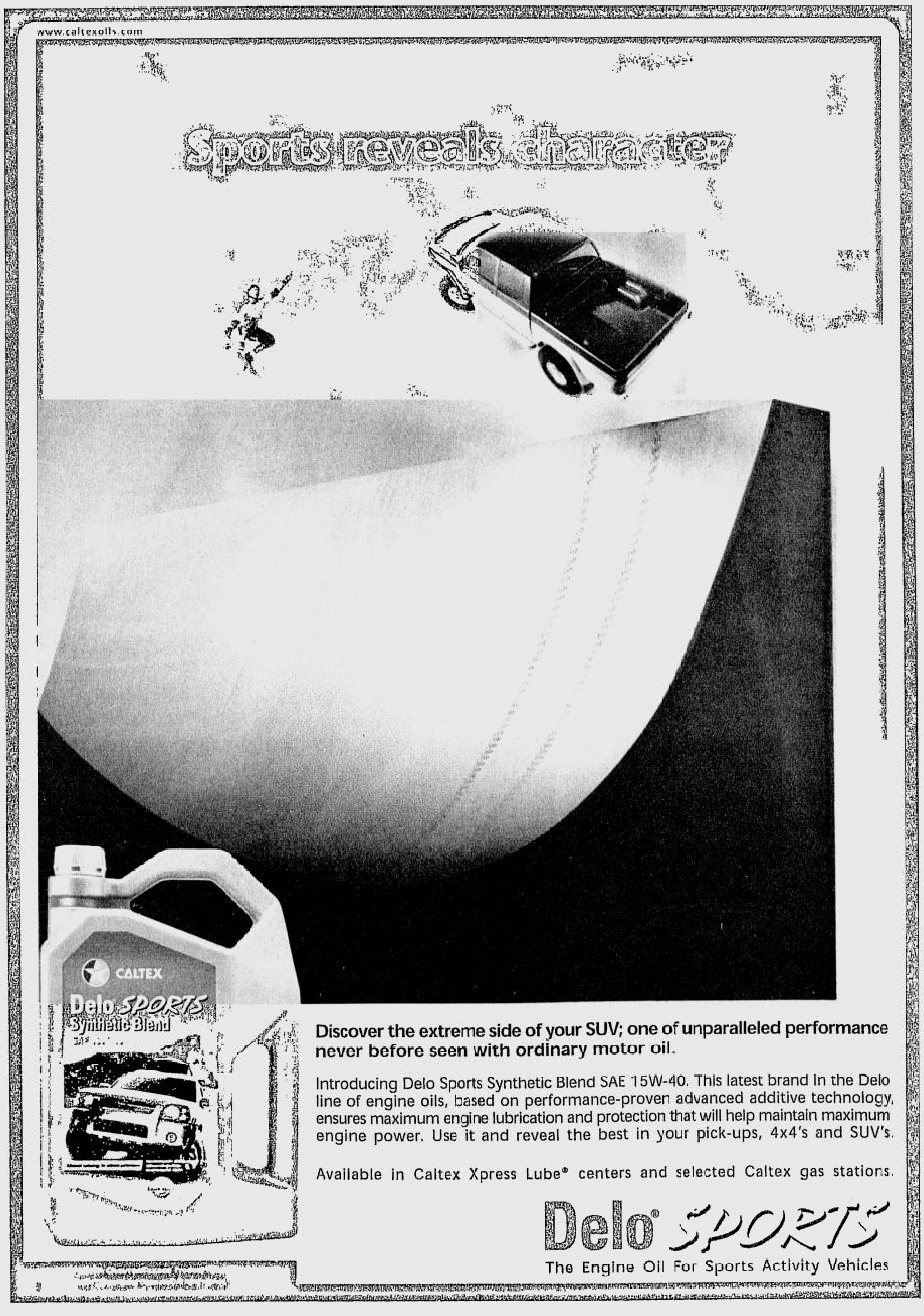
Once the capital outlay for the machinery is recovered, Rushworth says, the tire tax will be lifted. The HKAA is backing the proposed tire tax as an environmentally viable solution to the problem of disposing old tires, which are nonbiodegradable and which are often thrown away intact, catching rain water that becomes a breeding place for infection-bearing (dengue and malaria) mosquitoes.

Opposed

While the HKAA supports the HKSAR government's tire registration proposal, together with the Motor Traders' Association (of which Rushworth is chairman) it opposed the government's decision to increase the First Registration Tax on premium cars from 60 percent to 150 percent. Through intensive lobbying, the HKAA and MTA succeeded in influencing legislators to reduce the tax to 100 percent and also to restructure all the tax brackets below the top rate. By doing so, the HKAA helped to save the car industry from what Rushworth calls "a very nasty situation" and stabilize sales figures that have been declining since 1997, the year when the British turned Hong Kong over to China. Some 300,000 people in Hong Kong directly or indirectly depend on the motor industry for their livelihood, Rushworth points out.

Mike Rushworth is well-known in Hong Kong's car trade, having been sales director and deputy managing director of the Toyota agency Crown Motors Ltd. for 27 years. Under his management, Toyota topped sales in all sectors: passenger cars, light commercial vehicles, taxicabs, public light buses, heavy trucks and fork lift trucks. In 1974, Rushworth ventured into China and set up a re-export business of 2,000 vehicles a month by virtue of which he was made a director of Toyota Motor Sales China Ltd. He also established an extensive network of service centers in southern China, directed the successful launching of the Lexus prestige brand in 1991 and negotiated the buy-out of the Macau Toyota agency, the profitability of which he increased six-fold in two years. After retiring in 1994, Rushworth joined the Jebsen Motor Group, which holds the Porsche and Renault franchises. He became the Group general manager in July 2000 after achieving a break-even situation for the loss-incurring Renault in one year.

TAXING/ C3



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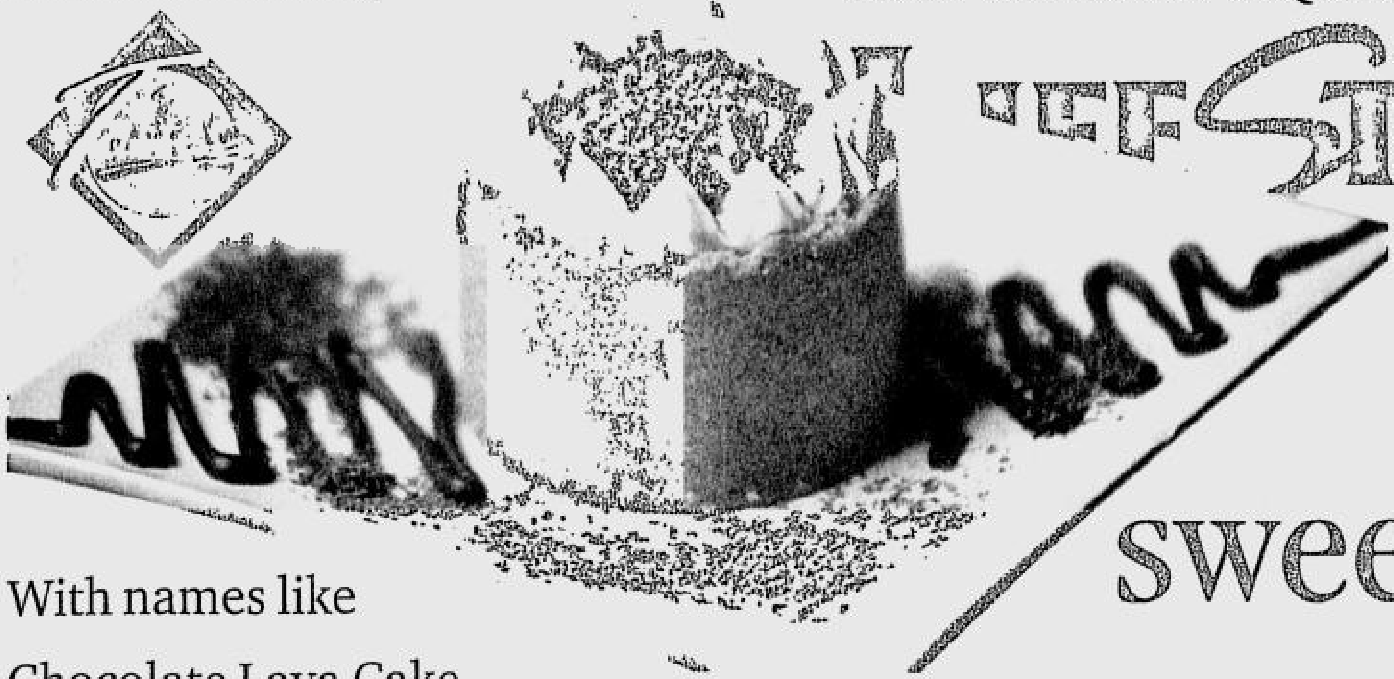

Sweet, sweet indulgence

With names like Chocolate Lava Cake and Quadruple Chocolate Dome, Global Cafe's sinful desserts are not for the faint of heart

STORY ON PAGE D3

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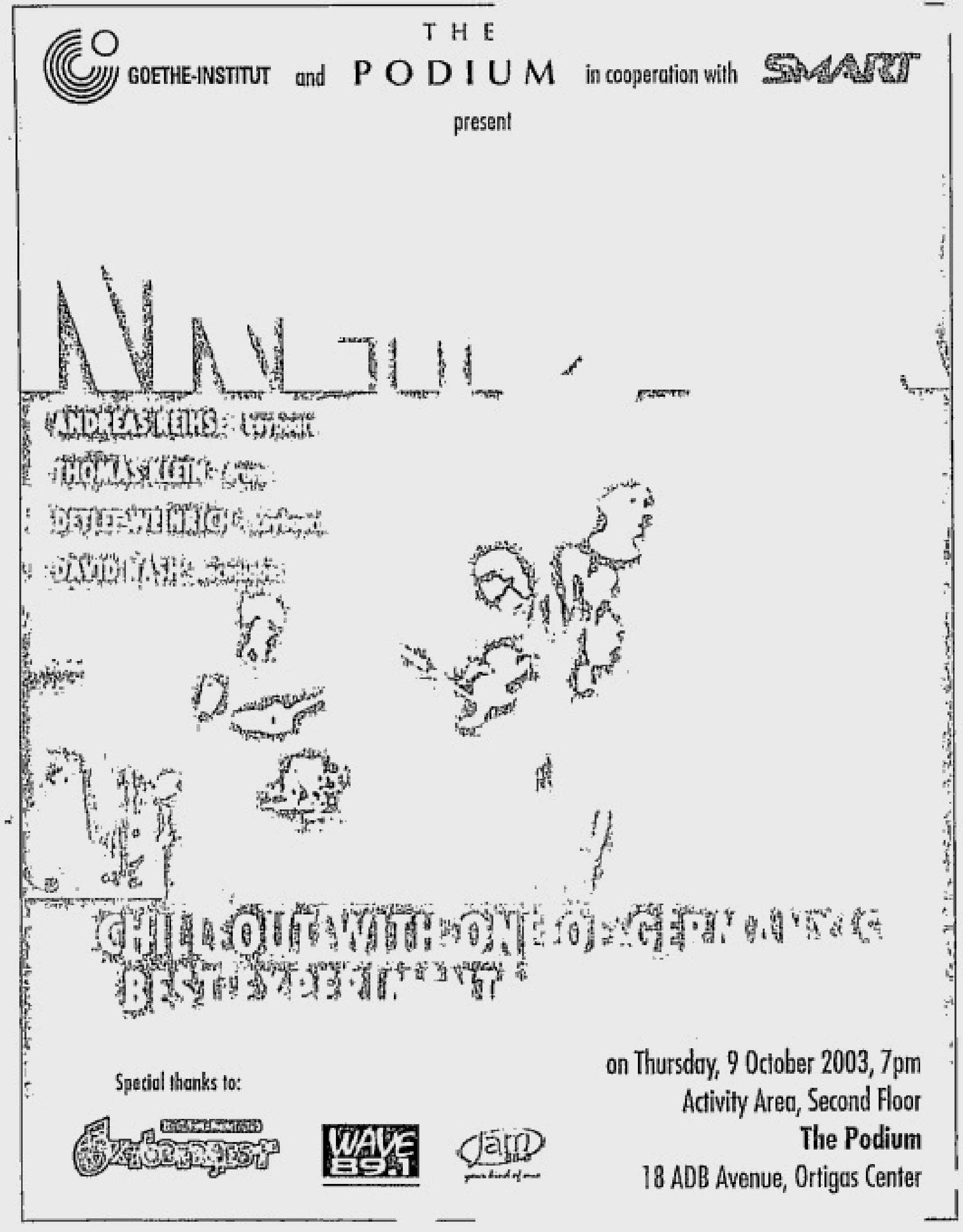

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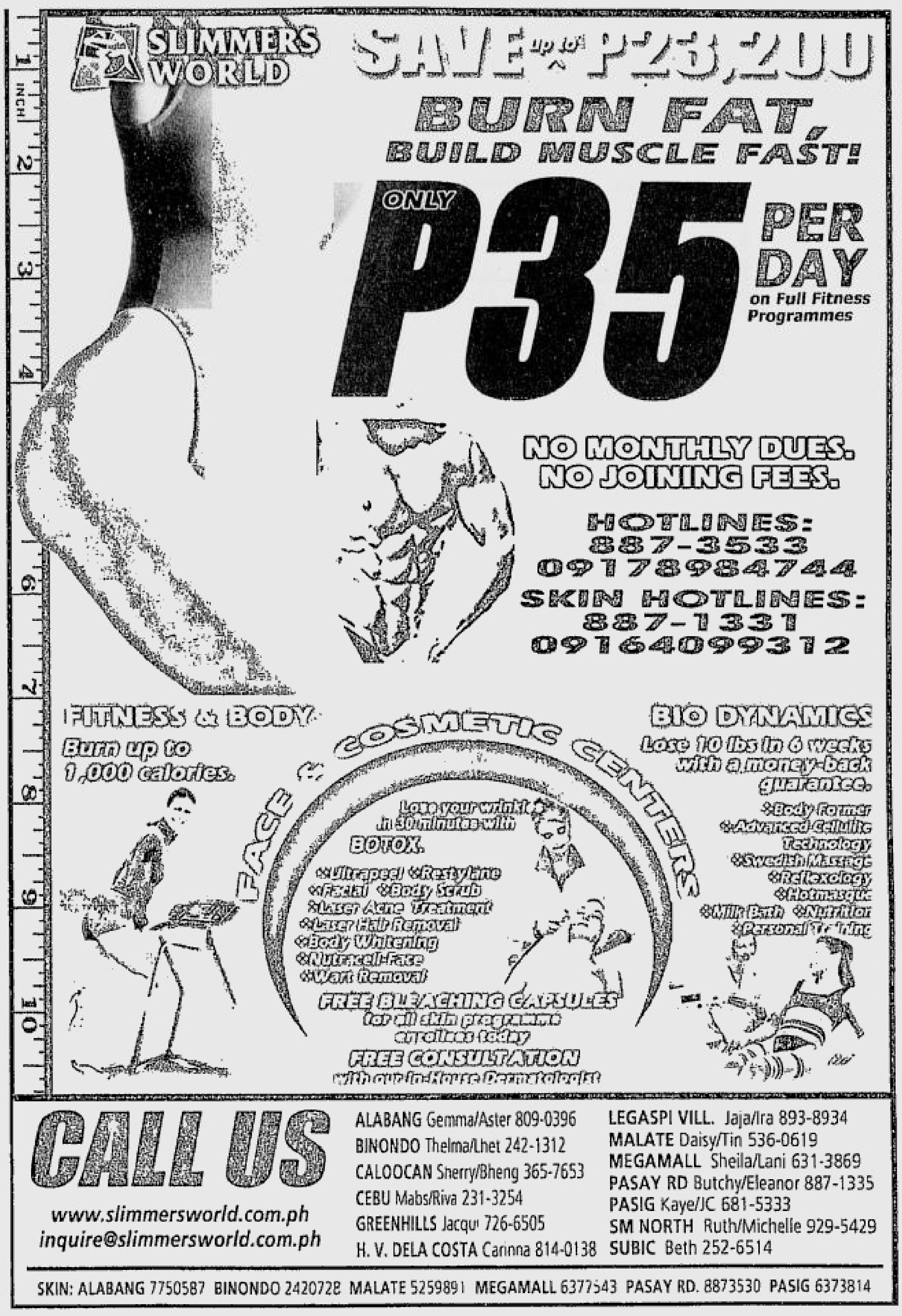

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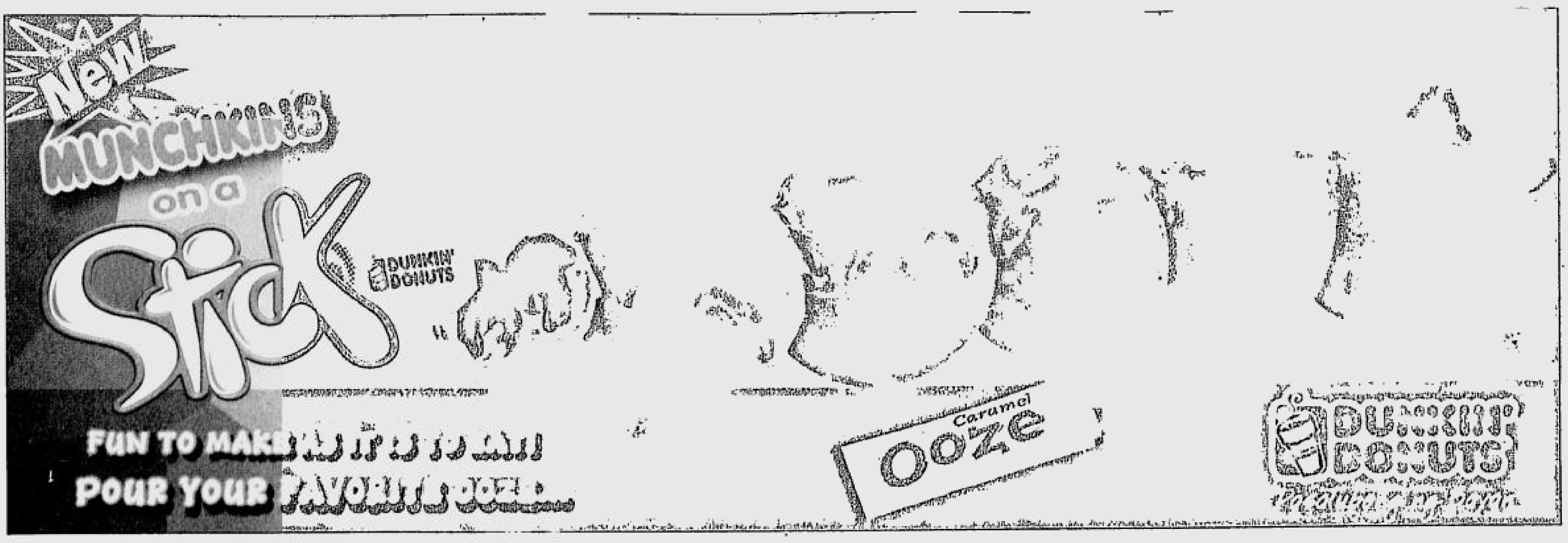

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Gourmet home cooking

PREPARE healthy haute cuisine dishes in your own kitchen. Culinary expert Dorothy Ferreria and Glad Wraps and Bags offer exciting vegetables, fruits and fish dishes to give families a nice change of menu.

The recipe uses Glad Ovenware, which eliminates the time-consuming search for the right serving dish or container for storing leftovers and for reheating. Available in two sizes, Glad Ovenware pan is heat-resistant, oven-safe (up to 400°F or 205°C), freezer-ready (-5°F or -21°C) and cost-efficient.

When using the product, Ferreria reminds cooks to never use the plastic lid if using a conventional oven.

GLAD
OVENWARE

Layered Baked Fish with Grapes and Spring Vegetables

500 kg fish fillet, preferably *lapu-lapu* or *labahita*, sliced
gin
all-purpose flour
beaten egg
breadcrumbs
oil for frying
2 tbsp butter to grease Glad Ovenware
Sauce:
6 tbsp butter
2 tsp pounded garlic
½ c chopped onions
6 tbsp all-purpose flour
3 c fresh milk
1½ bar quickmelt cheese, grated
1 tsp fine salt
black pepper to taste
Glad Ovenware
1 c carrots, sliced julienne and boiled
1 c broccoli flowers, boiled
1 c peeled and halved seedless grapes
parsley or basil for garnishing

Marinade the fish in gin for 15 minutes. Coat each piece with flour. Dip in beaten egg, then roll in breadcrumbs. Fry in oil until light golden brown. Set aside.

Grease the sides and bottom of a rectangular dish with butter. Set aside. In a saucepan, melt the remaining butter. Sauté the garlic and the onions in butter until the onions become limp. Stir in the flour and sauté for a few seconds. Pour in the milk and mix well.

Cook over low heat, stirring continuously with a wire whip until smooth. Remove from heat; stir in the grated cheese and season with salt pepper.

When ready to assemble, completely cover the bottom of the buttered dish with fried fish fillet. Top with vegetables and peeled grapes. Carefully pour half of the sauce over the mixture covering it almost completely. Repeat the layering process ending with the remaining sauce.

Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes. Garnish with parsley or basil leaves.

A sweeter Christmas with choco-flavored raffle promo

CADBURY, one of the world's favorite chocolate brands, makes Christmas sweeter for its consumers as it ties up with Robinsons Supermarket and Robinsons Choice in the Wish List Raffle Promo.

With a minimum purchase of P75 worth of Cadbury Chocolates at any Robinsons Supermarket and Robinsons Choice, you get a chance to win P5,000 worth of Robinsons Gift Certificates.

There will be 50 lucky winners. Promo runs until Nov. 15. To join, write your name, address, contact number and signature at the back of your receipt reflecting the P75 minimum purchase (one receipt equals one entry) and drop in drop boxes located at any Robinsons Supermarket nationwide.

The Wish List Promo is available in all Robinsons Supermarket nationwide.

DTI awards best consumer welfare desks

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

EVERY year, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) selects top service-oriented consumer welfare desks (CWDs) in business establishments.

These CWDs are rated according to how well they follow consumer protection standards set by DTI: prompt resolution of consumer complaints, exemplary management of consumer concerns, and systematic improvement of products and services. Giving the awards this year were DTI Secretary Mar Roxas and Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal at the formal opening of Consumer Welfare Month, which is October.

Winners of the nationwide search for best CWDs in business establishments are:

Category 1 (supermarkets, department stores, and hardware stores): Metro Gaisano, Ayala Center, Cebu City—overall Consumer Welfare Champion award and merit award; CSI Warehouse Club, Lucao District, Dagupan City—second place, consumer welfare award; and Uniwide Sales Warehouse Club, Ninoy Aquino Boulevard, Tarlac City—Cream of the Crop award.

Category 2 (duly accredited appliance centers, repair shops): Sharp (Phils) Services Corp., South Superhighway, Alabang—Consumer Welfare Champion and Cream of the Crop award; and Well-Made Motors and Development at Tanchan Industrial Complex, Mandaue, Cebu City-merit award.

DTI acts on complaints

As we promised last time, here is the first batch of consumer complaints and the action taken by DTI's consumer welfare and trade regulations group (CWTRG) headed by Undersecretary Cristobal Jr. The office takes care of consumer complaints.

Pennie A. dela Cruz, a frequent shopper at Robinsons Ermita branch, has some complaints. First, customers are not allowed to push the grocery cart to the food outlets outside the supermarket, even it's just a distance of a yard or two. Second, there was a deceptive sign at the clothes section that said "free gift with purchase." She bought a blouse worth P450, but when she tried to claim her gift at the cashier, she was told the purchase had to be worth P500.

Azarcon tried to bring the heavily loaded cart to the food outlet twice, but was restrained by the guard. She was told to get a bagger to help the cart. "I had to get a bagger and, of course, I had to give him a tip for the two-yard distance. If Rustan's at Shangri-La mall allows customers to bring their cart to the adjoining food court, why cannot Robinsons trust their customers that much?"

CWTRG's reply: "We forwarded your suggestion about consumer service to Robinsons management. You were correct in asserting your right to avail of the promo—free gift with purchase—as indicated on the clothes rack. Based on your letter, it appears to be a form of deceptive and misleading advertisement. The store should have indicated the minimum amount of purchase that entitles buyers to the freebie."

Consumer Act of the Philippines or RA 7394, Chapter IV, Article 110 states that it is unlawful for any person to disseminate deceptive advertisement by mail, television, radio, or other medium—signage for instance as in your case—for purpose of inducing... the purchase of consumer products or services.)

G. S. Lopez bought a can of sardines from a supermarket in Makati. When her husband opened the can to heat it in a pan, there was no single piece of sardines inside. It was just tomato sauce. She wrote: "We double-checked the label for the company's address so we can send our complaint, but there was no address."

CWTRG replied: "Thank you for writing us about this concern. It is a clear case of a substandard product. Under RA 7394-Article 101, suppliers are liable if the net content of their product is less than what is indicated on the package label and advertisement. You have the right to demand for any of the following: replacement of product of the same kind and brand or immediate reimbursement of the amount you paid. It could have been resolved had you reported the case to the customer desk of the supermarket. Another alternative was for you to file a formal complaint with the DTI-NCR."

Comments on promo scam

K. Kho (rec-october25@yahoo) wrote: "My relative also fell victim to devious marketing strategies, as you related in your column last Sept. 25 (scratch a number raffle promo). She paid the whole amount for the products through a credit card. We already returned the products to the store where these were bought. The problem is, the company is making it difficult for us to get our refund. Do you have any suggestions?"

We suggest you file a formal complaint at the DTI-National Capital Region. For more details, call 8904932 or 8118231.

Electrical safety

Here are electrical safety tips for the rainy days from Edmund Silverio, corporate safety officer of the Manila Electric Company:

Electrical appliances and outlets should always be kept away from water. Always check the outlets for water seepage. If wall outlets get wet, have it checked by a licensed electrician.

Turn off electrical appliances when there's a flood. Use only when the appliances are thoroughly dried after the flood.

Be vigilant for signs of electrical hazards such as flickering light, burning odor, loose connection, frayed, cracked, or broken wires. Have those checked by licensed electrician.

Octopus connections and overloading can trigger accidents, particularly fires.

Silverio added that Meralco had distribution crews that followed a systematic maintenance program to make sure that facilities did not become hazards to public safety. The program includes regular trimming of trees close to electrical lines and facilities, insulator washing to remove contaminants, and infrared scanning to detect overheating in electrical connections.

For more tips on indoor and outdoor safety, call Jackie Sierda at 6379215 or e-mail jsierda@partners.com.ph

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The many pleasures of dining at Mario's

Dining pleasures are never the same in all restaurants. Some pale in comparison to others, whether in the quality of food, service, ambience, or value for money. Others have their distinct reputations to begin with. Mario's Restaurant, with more than three decades of culinary consistency, have made dining in each of its three outlets a pleasurable and delightful experience.

The renovated Mario's Restaurant at St. Francis Square in Ortigas Center opened its doors recently with interiors of subtle hues and soft look complementing its comfortable furniture pieces. Overall, its design is contemporary and friendly, giving a feel of intimacy where guests can relax while enjoying their meals.

While Mario's Ortigas enjoys the patronage of both its regular and new customers, Mario's Quezon City, located along Tomas Morato, continues to be the favorite dining place of the who's who in government and show business.

In both Ortigas and Quezon City branches, Mario's brings the whole family together with its lunch buffet feasts on Sundays. Available from 11am to 1:30pm, they can savor a wide variety of dishes, a bevy of appetizers and salads, main courses of pasta and seafood, a carving station, and cakes, pastries and fruits.

The two branches have function rooms, whether for private dining and business functions, with menus that can be tailor-fit for the needs of the occasion. They also offer available business facilities and services.

The regulars still go for all-time favorites Paella, Oysters Rockefeller, Caesar Salad, and steaks, yet Mario's old and new habitués are treated to surprises with innovative culinary delights. Every quarter, Mario's comes up with Regional Specials -- an extensive, diverse and progressive menu to satisfy its clients' ever-changing palate. Among the newest items is Salpicado Asiatico, the Asian version of its famous Salpicado and this time, it is spiced up with exotic ingredients and served with cilantro rice.

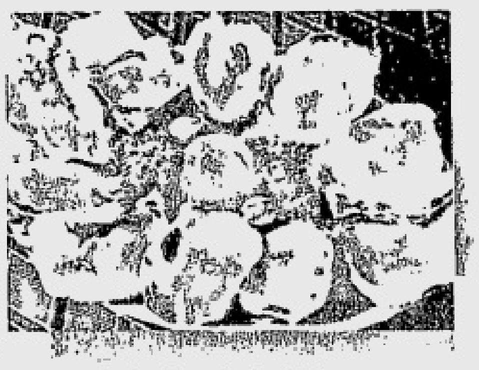
Mario's also offers catering service for business, private or social functions. Whether it's a buffet or sit-down style, Mario's can come up with a variety of dishes to fit the client's budget.

Mario's maiden branch continues to enjoy the patronage of both tourists and locals. Now located at the Upper Session Road, the new Mario's Baguio is like the typical Baguio country home. And with its lush garden and outdoor dining set, diners can view South Drive while enjoying the fare.

Mario's Ortigas Dining Area

Function Rooms

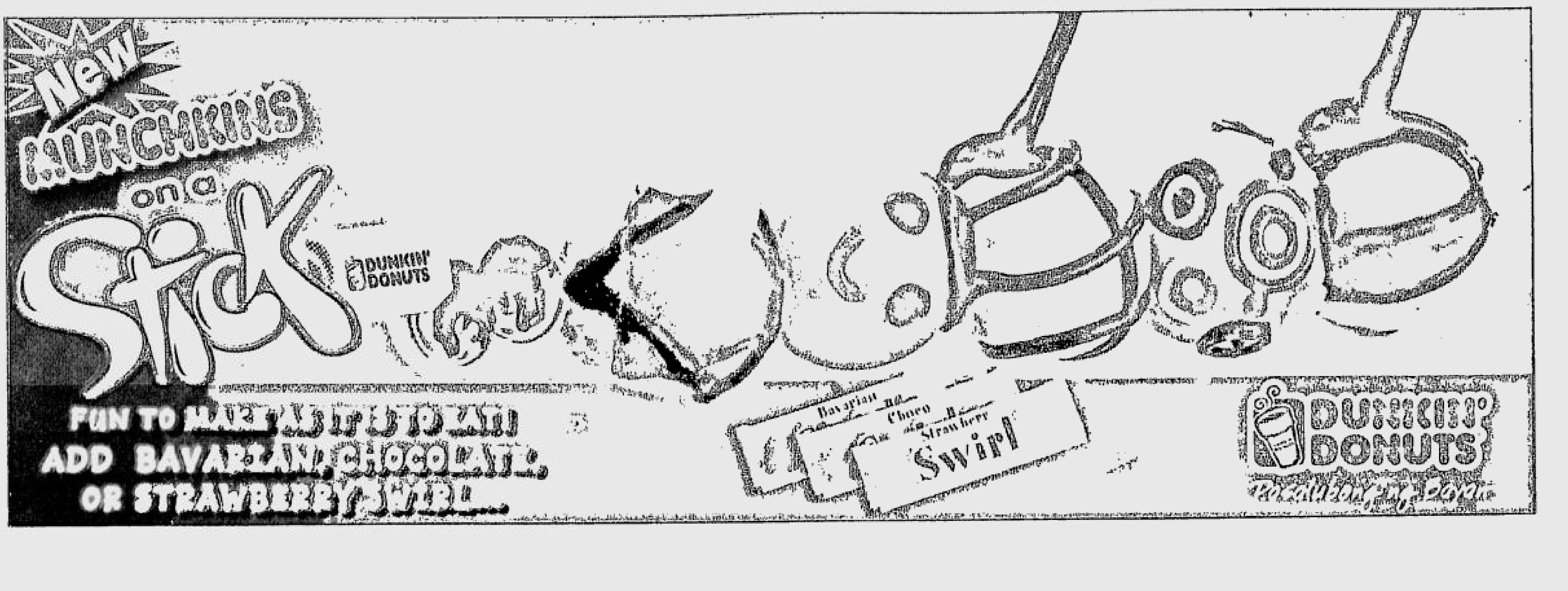
Salpicado Asiatico



Oysters Rockefeller

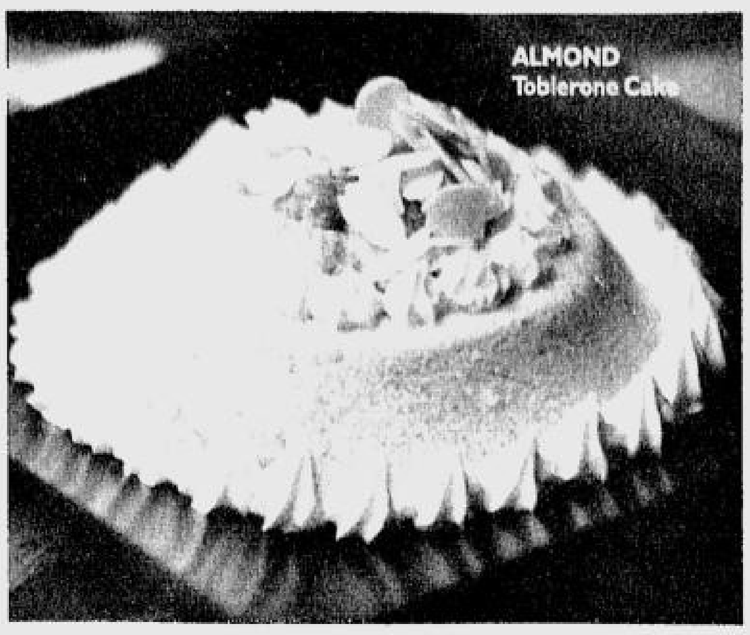
The Buffet Spread

ADVT.



CHOCOLATE
Lava Cake

Sweet, sweet indulgence



ALMOND
Toblerone Cake

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Rudy Esperas

AT THE G/F Greenbelt 3 is Global Café by Store Super. Known for its delectable meals, the resto is also attracting a growing number of pastry clientele—the afternoon crowd, after-movies crowd and, yes, the after-meals crowd.

PAVLOVA

"*Ginawa kaming* bakeshop," says director for operations Reena Francisco—not that she's complaining.

Its undisputed bestseller is Chocolate Lava Cake, a flourless chocolate dessert oozing with warm, creamy Belgian chocolate filling.

"Dessert is an indulgence, a luxury you pamper yourself with," she says. Hence, none of Global Café's desserts is friendly to dieters or those with health constraints.

Francisco works closely with the pastry chef to develop desserts. The Panna Cotta, a duo of light cream and mocha, took a month to develop. Getting the right consistency and smooth texture was tricky, and they had to make the perfect coffee-flavored cream as well.

"I'm proud of our pastries. Each has its own pluses in terms of flavor," she says.

When customers asked why the Philippines was not represented in Global Cafe's European-inspired desserts, Francisco experimented with local fruits and came up with Pavlova—sweetened whipped cream with fresh mango slices sandwiched between layers of pistachio meringue.

Its version of tiramisu is Super Tower, not the usual layers of cake soaked in liquor and coffee. Instead, this one is flaky, with loads of cream.

The Almond Toblerone Cake, on the other hand, is the resto's version of sans rival. Wafers are instead between layers of melted white Toblerone instead of merengue.

Then there's the Quadruple Chocolate Dome, which consists of chocolate mousse, chocolate ganache, chocolate cake, chocolate cream with chocolate pieces topped with *pinipig* crunch. Whew!

"People are looking for something different, not necessarily one-of-a-kind. With our desserts, we have a good balance of flavor, presentation, quantity and quality," says Francisco.

Early Christmas cooking with Reggie Aspiras

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is presenting its series of classes this month at Bon Appetit, 3/F, Shangri-La Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

Oct. 10 (Friday)—Suckling Pig (highly recommended)—Asian Style Suckling Pig with Garlic and Lemon Grass with Relishes, three Rice Combinations and Relishes

Oct. 13 (Monday)—Festive Pasta Dishes—Tagliatelle Al Tartufo (Black Truffle Pasta) two kinds, Timbale of Pasta with Braised Veal, Pasta Stuffed Eggplants, Timbale of Stuffed Crepes, Wild Mushroom Gnocchi with Grilled Fillet of Beef Chocolate Lasagna

Oct. 15 (Wednesday-morning class)—Rice Cakes of Asia, a must for all those who want to explore the joys of Asian *kakanins*—Rice Cake with Chicken Filling, Sago Cakes, Banana Stuffed Rice Cakes, Pandan Suman with Sauces, Sweet Cassava Cake with Coconut, Glutinous Rice Cake with Custard Sauce, Brown Sugar Jelly (Asian *kutsinta*)

Oct. 15 (Wednesday-afternoon class)—Gourmet Filipino Holiday 1—Pandan Lumpia with Candied Walnuts, Grilled Lemon Prawns with Dulong Rice and Relish, Grilled Salmon Filipino Style With Seafood Sotanghon in Caviar and Champagne Sauce, Duck Adobo with Foie Gras and Homemade Fruit and Jam, Pastel de Pollo, Gata Leche Flan with Tapioca Christmas Rolls

Oct. 17 (Friday)—Christmas Hams and Bread (all new, highly recommended)—Hams: Coffee, Rum, Apple Mustard, Vanilla, Sugar Cane; bread—Focaccia variations

Monday and Friday classes start at 9 a.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.--morning class, and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.—afternoon class.

Call 9289296, 9273008 or 6335162.

Classes in baking and Japanese cooking

LEARN some helpful moneymaking tips and earn while doing what you enjoy best—cooking and baking—with Maya Kitchen's cooking classes.

Learn how to bake goodies with the Cookies, Bars and Tart Classes on Oct. 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Create mouthwatering delicacies such as Maple Date Cookies, Choco Chunks, Molasses, Pineapple Macaroon, Oatmeal, Coconut Chips, Fruitcake Bars, Dark Fruitcake, Chocolate Fruitcake, Light Fruitcake, Caramel Butter Tarts and Cashew Boat Tarts.

Try your hand at Japanese Cooking on Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Make some "oishi" dishes like Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki and Kamameshi; assorted Sushi; Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri.

Enroll in Hands-On Classes in Baking I (Basic) on Oct. 15, 16, 17, 1:30 to 5 p.m., or on Oct. 28-29, from 8:30 am. to 2:30 pm. and learn techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast bread and more.

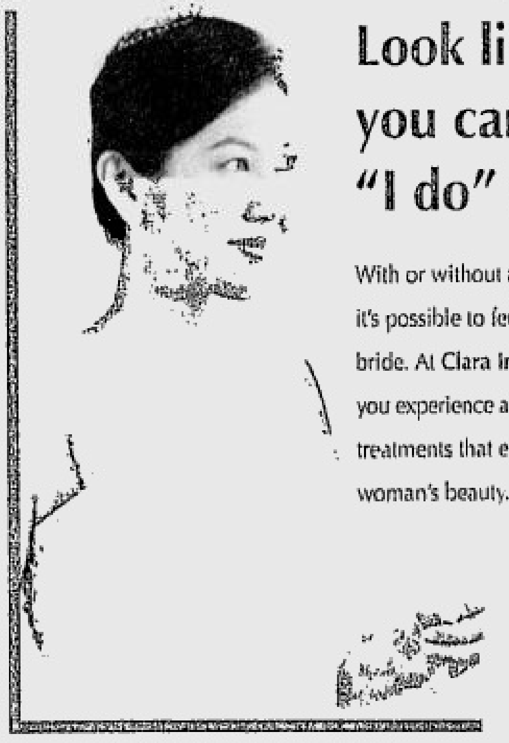
For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesday-Saturday) at the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City, call tels. 8921185 or 8925011 local 108, or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

Seminar set for food service businesses

A BASIC foodservers training has been set by ProActive Center for Training on Oct. 20-24, from 1-5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar & Restaurant, 2nd Level Eastwood CityWalk, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

The training features hands-on workshops in table setting, service, napkin folding and table skirting. Topics also include food service behavior, personality and grooming, menu familiarization and merchandising, customer relations and hygiene and sanitation. Trainers are food service consultants and professors of hotel and restaurant management who are award-winning coaches of the student division on Chefs on Parade.

Call 7876370 or 0916-8226053.



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Cool desserts for sultry days and nights

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

IT is now October, and yet mid-afternoons can get unbearably hot, especially in the kitchen. Here are three gelatin-based desserts that are easy to prepare, budget-friendly and refreshingly cool. These meal-enders are guaranteed to make your family ask for more.

Coffee Jelly

store-bought mocha ice cream
gelatin, 90-gram pack unflavored and clear *gulaman*
1 tbsp coffee powder
1 ½ c water
1 tsp coffee liqueur or rum

In a saucepan, combine the ingredients for the gelatin. Place over medium heat and allow to boil for five minutes, stirring constantly.

Pour the mixture into a glass dish and let set at room temperature for 30 minutes or chill for 15 minutes. Cut the gelatin into half-inch cubes. Keep chilled until ready to serve.

When ready to serve, place about two spoonfuls of gelatin in the bottom of a dessert cup. Top with scoops of mocha ice cream.

Milky White Gelatin with Fruit Cocktail

1/3 c unflavored gelatin
1 ½ c syrup from canned fruit cocktail
3/4 c white sugar
2 c fresh milk
300-g can cream
½ c water
1 tsp almond extract
30-ounce can fruit cocktail, well-drained

Drain the fruit cocktail and reserve the syrup. Measure the syrup. Add water, if necessary, to come up with 1 ½ cups liquid. Disperse the gelatin in the syrup. Stir in the sugar. Let stand for a few minutes to allow the gelatin to bloom.

Cook over low heat, stirring continuously until the gelatin dissolves completely. Do not allow the gelatin to boil. Remove from heat and pour in milk, cream, water and almond extract. Chill to almost the point of setting. The mixture should resemble thick, white sauce.

Fold in the fruits and divide equally among 12 dessert cups. Chill until firm.

Panna Cotta with Mandarin Orange Topping

1 tbsp unflavored gelatin
1 c fresh milk
1/3 c white sugar
1 ¾ c all-purpose cream
1 tbsp orange liqueur or 1 tsp orange extract
1 can mandarin oranges in light syrup

Disperse the gelatin in one cup of milk. Mix well and let stand for three minutes to allow the gelatin granules to swell. Transfer the mixture into a large saucepan. Pour in the sugar and the cream. Cook over the lowest possible heat until the gelatin dissolves completely, taking care that the mixture does not boil. Stir in the orange liqueur or extract and divide among ramekins or goblets. Chill until firm.

Before serving, top the panna cotta with several pieces of mandarin orange. Sliced fresh fruits may also be used in place of canned mandarin orange.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City. Call 7217735.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Corned beef omelet *Pandesal* Butter and cheddar cheese Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	Clear soup Pork *afritada* *Rellenong talong* Rice *Minatamis na saba*	Chicken *tinola* *Kilawin na isda* Rice *Atis*
TUESDAY	Cereal and milk Loaf bread Butter, fruit jam, liver spread Cottage cheese Coffee or fruit juice	Macaroni soup Fried fish fillet with thousand island dip *Guisadong gulay* Rice Coffee jelly	Green salad *Arroz ala cubana* Milky white gelatin with fruit cocktail
WEDNESDAY	Tuna sandwich Cheese platter Bananas with yogurt Coffee or hot chocolate	Coleslaw Breaded porkchop Rice *Rambutan*	*Sinampalukang manok* *Halabos na hipon* Rice *Mais con hielo*
THURSDAY	Hotcake Pan-grilled luncheon meat Coffee or hot chocolate Fresh pineapple	*Paksiw na plapla* *Pinakbet* Rice Bottled *langka*	Spaghetti with meatballs Garlic bread Ice cream
FRIDAY	*Ensaymada* or *mammon* Cheese and ham Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea	Green salad with vinaigrette Beef steak with onions Rice Bottled sweet beans	Fried chicken wings Vegetable *chopsuey* Rice Chocolate mousse
SATURDAY	*Daing na bangus* Tomato salad Rice Coffee or hot chocolate Assorted fresh fruits	Clear soup *Tokwa't baboy* *Pancit palabok* Assorted store-bought *kakanin*	*Patola* with *misua* soup Fish *escabeche* Rice Fruit cocktail with ice
SUNDAY	Fried egg *Vigan longganiza* Garlic rice Coffee, hot chocolate or fresh fruit juice	Cucumber salad Beef *bulalo* Grilled *gindara* or tuna Rice *Leche flan*	Instant cream of mushroom soup Simplified Caesar salad *Salpicado* *Paella* *Buko gelatin*

Aussie lamb meat now available

MONTEREY, the food company that offers fresh-chilled pork and beef, marinated meats and ready-to-cook meals, is adding Australian lamb in its line-up.

Lamb is a very nutritious meat. It is a good source of daily energy boosters needed by the body like protein, riboflavin and high levels of natural iron.

If you're health-conscious or trying to stay fit, lamb is a good alternative to your meat diet because of its low fat. It has lower cholesterol content than chicken or eggs.

Not all lamb tastes the same. Australian meats are reputed to be superior meats because animals raised in the uncontaminated grasslands of Australia produce leaner, more tender meats with a sweet, mild flavor. The country's lamb is also known internationally for its high level of hygiene standards.

When preparing lamb, take note that meat cuts that have more ligaments or tendons (*litid*) can be less tender, so cooks are advised to add marinades or sauces with vinegar, lemon juice, calamansi or papaya.

Frozen lamb should never be thawed in room temperature or soaked in water because doing so will drain the meat juices and cause bacteria to breed. The trick is to refrigerate the meat overnight before cooking to get the best out of your lamb meat.

Monterey Australian lamb is readily available in most Monterey Meatshops located nationwide. Download special lamb recipes from www.mygreatfood.com.

Creative Cooking
2003 Culinary Series
October Calendar

Surprise your holiday guests with a new line of recipes. Don't miss this chance to learn the culinary secrets of Don Alba and of Chef Seiji Kamura.

SPANISH
By **Don Alba** of Alba Restaurante Espanol

Day 1- Paella Marinera, Lapu-Lapu ala Gina, Pollo Medallion Malagueña, Escalopines al Madiera and Ensalada Mixta

Day 2- Pollo ala Reina Regencia, Bacalao ala Vizcaina, Pescaditos Andalucia, Medallion de Solomillo al Tomillo and Ensalada Gaditana

October 21 & 28, 2003, Tuesdays, 2-5 p.m., P2,900 (for 2 days)

JAPANESE
By **Chef Seiji Kamura** of Juan Miro, Kasei, and Seiji restaurants

Day 1- Uni Spaghetti, Kani & Spinach Tamago, Pork Shoga Yaki, Maya-Maya Miso Yaki, Japanese Fried Chicken and Omelet Rice

Day 2- Rolled Beef, Tanguigui Marinier, Hiyashi Gomoku Udon, Japanese Deep-Fried Hamburger, Chicken Cheese Yaki and Beef Yakimeshi

October 22 & 29, 2003, Wednesdays, 2-5 p.m. P2,900 (for 2 days)

Demonstration method. Fee inclusive of ingredients. Reservation confirmed only upon full payment.

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BIÑAN ☎(049)511.7268	ICE KENDI MR.ROXY	NO ENTRANCE FEE
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JUPITER ☎ 890.4735	0 2 7 FIRST SIGHT	OCT.29-SABOR LATINO
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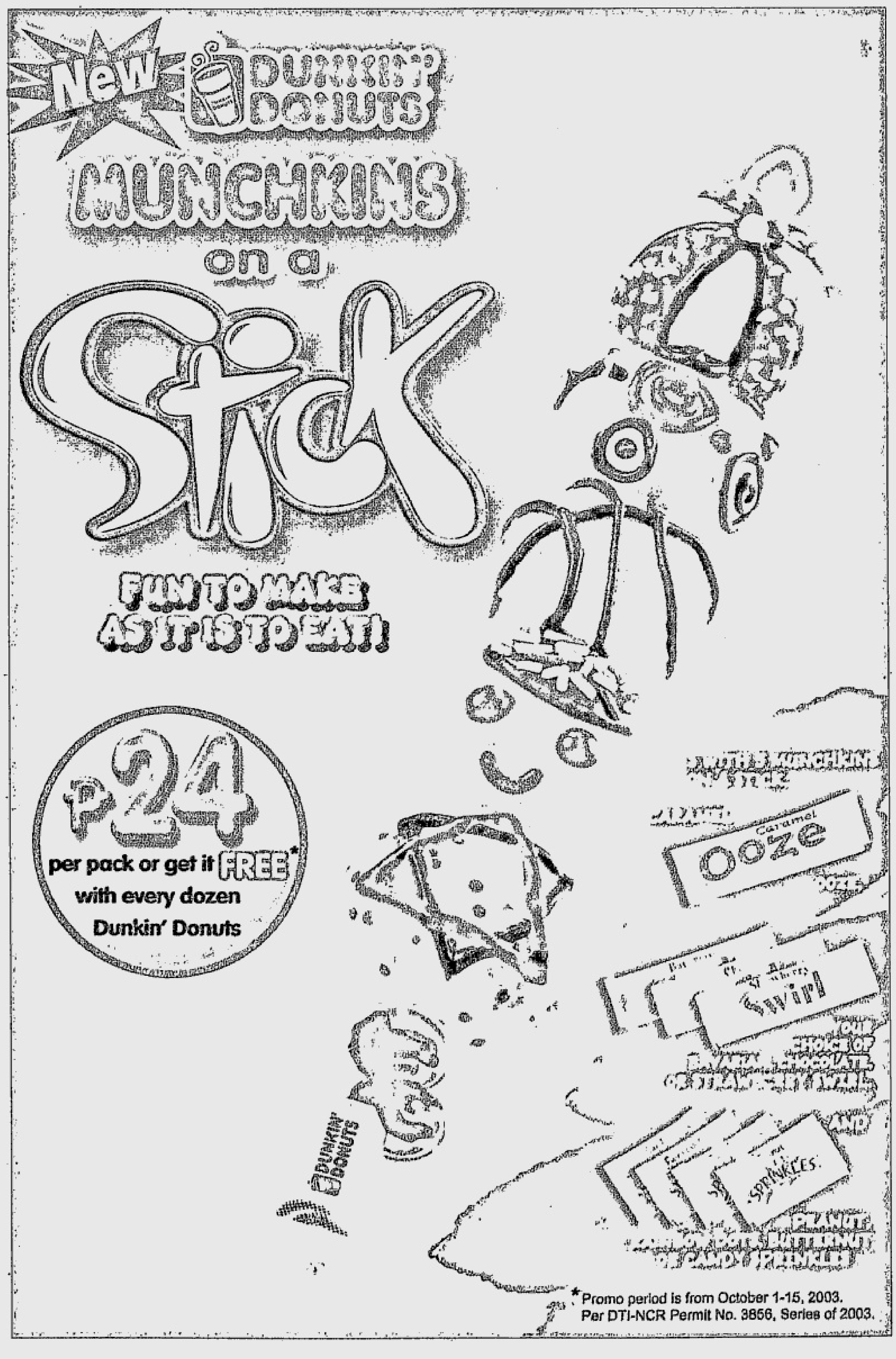
OCTOBER 09 THURSDAY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‘Manila faces greatest threat of terrorist attack’

Story below, Col. 1

ALAM BA NI MAYOR ITOH?

Uh-oh, say it ain't so, Ralph

By Mei Magsino
PDI S. Luzon Bureau
and Cynthia Balana
in Manila

NASUGBU, Batangas—Maybe he merely wanted to show her the sights?

At the height of a party-list group's contro-

UH-OH/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Firms warned against BIR harassment** BUSINESS/B1
- **Chavit tagged slay brains** ACROSS/A17
- **‘Mr. Excitement’ caught in the act** METRO/A24

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, October 10, 2003 ★★ 72 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 304 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Nene: Opposition has lost Danding

Palace denies deal, plans to appeal court ruling

TOGETHER again: The First Couple stride into the Palace after President Macapagal arrived from Bali via Cebu on Thursday and Mr. Mike Arroyo jetted in Wednesday from the United Arab Emirates where he facilitated the release of 22 jailed Filipino seamen. EDWIN BACASMAS

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Carlito Pablo

THE DAYS of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. as an "opposition stalwart" are over, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said after the Sandiganbayan promulgated an order unfreezing 20 percent of the shares of San Miguel Corp. registered in the name of Cojuangco and 34 companies he controls.

Pimentel predicted that Cojuangco, chair emeritus of the Nationalist People's Coalition, would soon announce his decision not to stand for election in May in exchange for regaining control of the food and beverage giant. "It's very likely," he said, of Cojuangco not running for president.

"It will be a big boost for the administration for the reason that it is now possible for President Macapagal-Arroyo to get the support of Cojuangco" to ensure her victory in next year's presidential election, Pimentel said.

The NPC is the country's biggest political party after the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats.

Pimentel said it was possible that Cojuangco, who lost in the 1992 presidential election, had cut a deal with Malacañang.

"Deals have been made with the administration," said Pimentel, who fought against the Marcos dictatorship as a human rights lawyer. "That's my gut feeling."

He then echoed the call of administration Sen. Joker Arroyo for the Senate to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the Sandiganbayan ruling.

The Sandiganbayan ruled on Wednesday that the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) committed technical errors when it issued nine sequestration orders by failing to show con-

NENE/ A21

RP faces greatest threat of terror attack, says Aussie defense chief

By TJ Burgonio
and Juliet Javellana

THE PHILIPPINES faces the greatest threat of an attack from the Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiyah, Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill told a security conference in Canberra yesterday.

While Australia and Southeast Asia are still targets, the al-Qaida-linked group would likely concentrate its activities in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, the three countries where it is strongest, Hill said.

But the organization "could turn its attention more resolutely" to attacks in the Philippines, he said.

"Manila is probably the most target-rich environment in Southeast Asia in terms of Western-style clubs, discos, hotels and symbols of Western culture such as multinational businesses and fast-food outlets," he said.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez had an immediate reaction. "The statement of the Australian defense minister that JI is specifically targeting the Philippines has no basis," he told reporters.

RP/ A8

ENDLESSLY missed: Lenny Villa's mother, Gerarda, visits his grave at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina. PDI PHOTO FILE

Mama remembers: Heinous crimes, shattered dreams

By Gerarda H. Villa

(Editor's note: This is a letter written by the mother of murdered fraternity neophyte Leonard H. Villa, Lenny to his friends, on the occasion of her son's 34th birthday today.)

Dearest Leonard,

Thirty-four years ago, I gave birth to you. Your papa and I were very happy to be blessed with a healthy baby boy.

Our happiness became complete when you became kuya to your sister Tina, whom you loved dearly.

You showed great promise as a young boy. You may not have been perfect, but in our eyes, you were. We were truly proud when you were accepted at the Ateneo de Manila Law School in 1991. We knew then that someday, you would be a fine lawyer, just like your papa.

I don't really know why you decided to join the Aquila Legis. It may have been the brotherhood and camaraderie that enticed you. Whatever it may be, I would never know because on Feb. 10, 1991, you were killed, keeping with you the answers that we will never know.

Up to now, it pains me to even try to imagine how much they hurt you, how savagely they beat you up, how you flinched at every painful blow.

Leonard, you would have been 34 today had you not gone before us 12 years ago. Often, with a smile on my face, I daydream and see you as a tough but principled, fair and unwavering lawyer, extending your assistance to victims of injustice. Truly a man for others as the Ateneo has instilled in you.

Alas, I could only be with you in my thoughts

MAMA/ A5

Lacson admits it has been ‘one hell of a week’

How Ping will be arrested

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF THE COURT orders his arrest, Sen. Panfilo Lacson will be accorded courtesy but not special treatment, Philippine National Police officials said yesterday.

"There should be no VIP treatment. The rule that we apply to one person should be applied to all," said Deputy Director General Virtus Gil, PNP chief for operations and Lacson's classmate at the Philippine Military Academy.

But because Lacson is a senator, Senate President Franklin Drilon and sergeant at arms Jose Balajadia will be informed of his arrest, said Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, director of the PNP Civil Security Group (CSG).

Apart from this, Lacson should be treated like an ordinary de-

HOW PING/ A21

By Christine O. Avendaño,
Cynthia D. Balana
and Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S been "one hell of a week" for Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, and while the thought of giving up the "fight" had crossed his mind, he was not the type to do so.

This was the gist of the speech read Wednesday by Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla in behalf of Lacson, who yesterday continued to make himself scarce in the wake of the Supreme Court ruling to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case. Remulla read the speech before members of the Financial Executives of the Philippines (Finex).

"[T]he totality of my being keeps recalling incessantly what I said when I left the [Philippine Military] Academy 32 years ago, a credo that I have tried as best as I humanly could to fulfill in every twist and turn of my life, and that is: 'What is right must be kept right, what is wrong must be set right,'" Lacson said in his speech.

He said that he could not be physically present with the Finex executives and that he wrote the

LACSON/ A21

JOAN BONDOC

GAME? What looks like a wheel of fortune at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court on Thursday determined where the Kuratong Baleleng case against Sen. Ping Lacson is to be tried. Lacson's counsel Sigrid Fortun (center, second from left) witnessed the raffle held at the sala of Judge Natividad Dizon.

Judge no stranger to controversy

By Tina Santos
and Volt Contreras

THE JUDGE who will handle the controversial Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case is no stranger to controversy.

Judge Maria Theresa Yadao of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81 to which the case was re-raffled yesterday handled the "Edsa Tres" rebellion case against former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Yadao also handled the case stemming from the March 2000 murder of then-government corporate counsel Jun Valerio.

Appointed RTC judge in 1996, she has had her share of run-ins with Malacañang, like the time she turned down a Palace confidence-building gesture to communist rebels involving the release of the so-called "Mamburao 6" suspects in the 1997 murder of

JUDGE/ A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/10/03

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA: Parliamentary is better

IN HER most categorical statement yet in support of proposals to amend the Constitution, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the country would be better off switching to a parliamentary system to speed up the pace of political and economic reforms.

"In my experience, given the needs of the 21st century, especially now that our Asian neighbors are beginning to accelerate their recovery again, I believe we should have a parliamentary form of government," the President told reporters in Cebu City yesterday.

"It makes fundamental reforms move faster," she said.

But she said she wants the issue handled after the elections in May 2004.

Several legislators have been calling for constitutional change, but the Senate and the House are divided over how it should be done.

The House majority favors an immediate shift to a parliamentary system via a constituent assembly and has even proposed that the President elected in 2004 serve a transition 3-year term to pave the way for a parliamentary system in 2007.

Con-con favored

The Senate, which will be abolished in a parliamentary system, is opposed to an immediate change and prefers a constitutional convention of delegates to be elected in 2004.

The President has said in the past she favors moves to amend the Constitution, and believes that a constitutional convention would be the least divisive way to bring it about.

Ms Macapagal's visit to Cebu City was her first out-of-town trip since she declared her intention to run in 2004 despite her pledge in December that she would quit after her term ends on June 30.

BACK IN MALACAÑANG, President Macapagal listens as 22 seamen, who were jailed in the United Arab Emirates, relate their ordeal. They were released after First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and Ambassador Amable Aguiluz V provided the money.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Despite her insistence that she wasn't campaigning yet, the President's visit bore the marks of a campaign stop.

Before the news conference, she distributed land titles to squatter families, then addressed a cheering crowd of thousands of supporters waving pro-GMA streamers.

At a press conference, she said she made the decision to run for a full term to ease the concerns of investors about the political instability in the country.

She said her announcement should calm the business community, particularly foreign investors and creditors.

Certainty

"The creditors and the business community ... wanted some certainty, so I had to make that announcement," she said.

Prior to her Oct. 4 announcement, US credit rating firm Moody's Investors Service downgraded to negative the outlook on the Philippines' sovereign foreign currency ratings, citing uncertainty in the run-up to the 2004 polls.

She said she changed her mind because the troubled country needed her experience.

Ms Macapagal said it was too early to go on the campaign trail and she would focus on her responsibilities for the time being. The campaign period starts in mid-December.

"It's too early to do politics. I'm back at work," she said, refusing to take any more questions relating to politics.

But the affair felt like a political rally. At least 20,000 showed up, many of them carrying placards that read: "Cebu loves GMA."

When the President arrived at about 10:30 a.m. for the Urban Poor Congress at the Cebu City Sports Complex, balloons and graffiti were released as the crowd chanted "GMA! GMA!"

She did not go directly up the stage but went to the bleachers to press the flesh.

After she was introduced by Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, Ms Macapagal started her speech by thanking Cebu for supporting her in past elections.*Reports from AP, AFP and Kathy I. Navarro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Gloria thanks US for special relations

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo thanked President George W. Bush for finally designating the Philippines a major non-Nato ally of the US.

"This will be our ticket to better security along a strategic partnership that spans this region and the world," the President said on arrival late Wednesday from Bali where she attended the summit of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) leaders.

Bush made the designation official in advance of his eight-hour state visit here on Oct. 18 en route to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Leaders Summit in Bangkok.

This gives the legal foundation for broadening US military and security aid to the Philippines as well as bilateral cooperation in the war against terrorism.

The US President first announced the inclusion of the Philippines in the exclusive club privileged with access to US military support during Ms Macapagal's state visit to Washington last May.

As a non-Nato ally, the Philippines will join Australia and other countries (Japan, Israel, Egypt, South Korea and Argentina) given first crack at US military equipment and granted significant benefits in foreign aid and defense and security cooperation.

The designation does not, however, give the Philippines and other members of the club the same mutual defense guarantees enjoyed by members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato).

The President said that aside from the Bush state visit, the country is looking at joining a flurry of international events in the next few weeks.

Ms Macapagal is set to leave for Kuala Lumpur on Oct. 16 to attend the meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference of Muslim-led countries.

"Thereafter, the Apec member economies will meet in Bangkok in a renewed bid to mop up pressing economic and security issues across the Asia-Pacific," she said.

"The cycle of international events enables us to train our sights on what we can gain and what we can contribute in meeting the growing challenges and opportunities of the millennium," she added.

The President said the Philippines had a "fruitful and rewarding presence" in the Asean summit where she and the leaders of the nine other Asean members signed the Asean Concord II, the road map to stronger security and economic integration in the region.

"We committed ourselves to push economic integration, increase trade and consolidate our vigilance against terrorism," she said. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

'Days of Protest' to mark Bush's Asia swing

UNITED States President George W. Bush's visit next week to allies in Asia and the Pacific aimed at trumpeting US victories in the war on terrorism and seek help with rebuilding Iraq will be marked by "days of protest and ridicule" not just in Manila but also in Tokyo, Sydney and Bangkok.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan yesterday said militant groups in the three key Asia-Pacific cities to be visited by Bush have confirmed that massive demonstrations will be staged for Bush's arrival.

Even in the legislature, where Bush will address a joint session of Congress, House members and party-list representatives belonging to a so-called "Legislators Against War" said they plan to wear "peace ribbons" during Bush's address in protest against the US global war policy.

In Washington, the White House yesterday announced Bush's six-nation tour which will be anchored on the Oct. 20 and 21 Leaders' Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum in Thailand.

US officials said the crisis over North Korea's nuclear weapons program is also likely to loom large when Bush leaves Washington Oct. 15 on the week-long tour.

He then travels to Japan Oct. 17 and 18; the Philippines for eight hours on Oct. 18; Thailand on Oct. 18 to 21; Singapore on Oct. 21 and 22; Indonesia on Oct. 22; and finally Iraq war ally Australia on Oct. 22 and 23.

At each stop, Bush plans to discuss "important bilateral, regional, and global issues," said spokesperson Scott McClellan, who announced the trip in a briefing with reporters.

Tin cup

With a new United Nations resolution aimed at getting more nations to share the growing burden in Iraq facing an uncertain future, aides were eager to avoid portraying Bush as begging allies to help the US-led reconstruction effort.

"I wouldn't say that he'll be 'tin cupping' it," said a senior US administration official who requested anonymity. "He will be encouraging other nations to contribute."

Bush's lightning stop in the Philippines is widely seen as a gesture to reward President Macapagal-Arroyo for her help in the war on terrorism, as well as contributing soldiers, police and medical workers to US-led forces in Iraq.

Ms Macapagal will press him for military aid—30 helicopters and 30,000 M-16 rifles—to battle insurgencies and suspected terror groups, according to Foreign Secretary Blas Ople.

House Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday said the official invitation for Bush to address the Congress has been transmitted to the White House through the US Embassy in Manila.

De Venecia and Senate President Franklin Drilon signed the invitation which said the event "will make a good regional forum to amplify America's policies in East Asia in the light of the changed strategic perspective since Sept. 11, 2001."

The invitation was transmitted following the approval by both chambers of Concurrent Resolution No. 17 inviting Bush to address the Congress.

The last time a joint session of Congress convened to hear the address of a US President was in June 1960 to hear President Dwight D. Eisenhower. *Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana with an AFP report*

Automated polls may not happen

THE PLANNED nationwide computerized polls for 2004, which cost taxpayers P3 billion, may not materialize after all.

This early, a poll watchdog has warned that the reversal could lead to manipulation of election results.

The Commission on Elections is looking into the possibility of computerizing only four areas—Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, Metro Davao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—according to Comelec information chief Diego Cagahastian.

He said this means the rest of the country would have to vote the old way—manually.

On Wednesday, Cagahastian said, Abalos and another poll official attended a day-long hearing conducted by the Congressional oversight committee on automation and overseas voting, after which the possibility of limiting computerization of the polls was raised. The "pressure" was reportedly exerted during the hearing by Sen. Edgardo Angara and Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus. *Martin Posadas Marfil*

4 Reds, soldier killed in clashes

OZAMIZ CITY—At least three communist guerrillas were killed and five other persons, including two non-combatants, were wounded during a fierce firefight in Barangay Mangga, Tangub City, early yesterday morning.

Two of the rebel casualties were identified as 18-year-old Michael Zoelo and a Commander Jack. The third slain rebel, a woman, was unidentified as of press time.

Wounded rebels who were captured were identified as Ursulo Ongcol, alias Commander Daryl, a local leader of the New People's Army (NPA); Jessie Casanes and Virgincita Pakit.

The civilians were identified as Christopher Grado, 23, and his sister Loida, 25.

Ongcol and Grado remain in critical condition at the Mayor Hilarion A. Ramiro Sr. Hospital here.

Col. Eduardo Tardio, commander of the Army's 5th Infantry Battalion, said the clash ensued after the military checked on the reported presence of rebels in the village.

Tardio said the rebels were hiding in the house of the Grado's when the soldiers arrived late Wednesday evening.

He said soldiers did not act immediately but decided to wait for daybreak before launching an attack to ensure that the rebels would not escape.

But one of the rebels, sensing they were surrounded early Thursday morning fired his gun setting off the firefight, according to Tardio.

Tardio said government troops finally overpowered the rebels about an hour later.

Recovered from the house were subversive documents and Ingram 45-cal. and 22-cal. pistols.

The clash was the second such incident in Misamis Occidental in one week.

Last week, government forces, despite losing five soldiers, overran an NPA camp in Sapang Dalaga town.

Meanwhile, a communist rebel and a soldier were killed and three other troops were wounded in a clash in the village of Danao, Polangui, Albay, the military said Thursday.

Soldiers from the 22nd Infantry Battalion were on patrol when they ran into a group of NPA guerrillas Wednesday, military spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said.

An "intense exchange of gunfire ensued" before the rebels fled, he said. The area is about 300 kilometers southeast of Manila. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with an AP report*

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UNITY IN BOOKS
A Muslim couple sets up a stall at the Riverbanks Hotel in Marikina City to give away free copies of religious books and pamphlets in a bid to promote better understanding between Christians and Muslims.
JOE ARAZAS

Ratify judges' pay hike bill now, urges solon

A RANKING House leader yesterday called for the immediate ratification of a bicameral conference report on a measure granting justices and judges a 100 percent increase in allowances.

House Assistant Majority Leader Rep. Danton Bueser (LP, Laguna) said the measure has been stuck in Congress despite the judges' clamor for a pay hike.

Last Monday, the nation's judges and court personnel went on mass leave to protest the long delay in their salary increase.

"Urgent action is needed," Bueser said, noting that the judges had suffered from low morale due to their low salaries, even as they struggled with heavy workload.

"Low pay is one of the reasons that some of them are involved in graft and corruption," the solon said. The pay increases could also encourage other lawyers to serve in the judiciary, and therefore fill up vacant salas, he added.

The House and Senate have separately approved a proposal to increase the allowances of justices and judges by 100 per cent, to equal their basic pay. Full implementation will take four years, at the end of which a regional trial court judge, for instance, will receive over P50,000 a month. Paychecks for justices serving in the Sandiganbayan, Court of Tax Appeals, Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court will be bigger than that of the President of the Philippines, who gets P57,000 a month.

A bicameral conference committee endorsed the measure for ratification by the two chambers. Neither the House nor the Senate has moved, however. *Carlito Pablo*

First Gentleman: God will take care of Ping

By Gil Cabacungan and Alcuin Papa

FIRST Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo yesterday said he would not set back at his accuser, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, for tarring him with the Jose Pidal exposé.

"*Bahala na ang diyos sa kanya. Karma na lang niya iyon* (I am leaving it up to God. That will be his *karma*," Arroyo told reporters who caught up him before the President's meeting yesterday with the 22 seamen who were jailed in the United Arab Emirates for two years for unpaid debts.

Arroyo and Ambassador Amable Aguiluz V provided the funds to settle the seamen's debts, paving the way for their release.

"I think he's [Lacson] desperate. It's the first time that a senator has manufactured evidence and he even used the Senate to spread this manufactured evidence," Arroyo said.

He said Lacson can "go ahead and release chapter 3" of his three-part exposé in which the senator accused Arroyo of laundering money in several Jose Pidal dummy accounts.

Arroyo said Lacson himself said the funds that were deposited in the Jose Pidal accounts were campaign contributions and were therefore private and not public funds.

Arroyo's brother, Ignacio, has come forward to claim ownership of the Jose Pidal accounts.

The heavy-set Arroyo appeared much trimmer yesterday. Palace officials attributed the weight loss to a diet prescribed by his doctors and not to stress from the Jose Pidal controversy.

Asked whether he had lost weight, Arroyo said: "I don't know. But I hope so."

Press Secretary Milton Alingod said the First Gentleman was given a special diet to reduce his weight from 240 to 200 lbs.

Asked about his wife's decision to run in 2004, Arroyo said: "We just talked about it when we were abroad and I just agreed to whatever she said."

Malacañang yesterday broke its silence on the Jose Pidal controversy, commenting on the issue and on Lacson's alleged links to criminal activities.

In a briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the transactions in the Jose Pidal accounts disclosed by Lacson were "not the fruit of drug operations and neither were they the results of kidnapping and bank robberies."

Lacson had been tagged by former intelligence chief Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as being involved in criminal activities like illegal drug trafficking, kidnapping and bank robberies.

Bunye said such "predicate crimes" justify the opening of private bank accounts.

But accounts containing campaign contributions were not part of "predicate crimes," he said.

He denied that Malacañang was persecuting Lacson as some Lacson partisans have claimed in the wake of the recent Supreme Court decision to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng summary execution case in which Lacson is a prime suspect.

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End to death penalty sought anew

By Jerome Aning

"AN AFFRONT to human dignity."

As the World Day Against Death Penalty is observed today, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and human rights groups renew their call on the government to abolish capital punishment in the country.

"We reiterate that ... killing people is a rejection of God's call to 'love one another as I have loved you,'" Rodolfo Diamante, executive secretary of the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (ECPPC), said yesterday.

Lawyer Theodore Te of the Free Legal Assistant Group (Flag), which defended most of the last seven criminals to be executed at the New Bilibid Prisons, called the Death Penalty Law "an experiment that has failed" because it was "based on the false premise that such a law could stop the rise of crime."

The Coalition Against Death Penalty (CADP), of which the CBCP and Flag are members, said there were exactly 1,000 death row inmates as of Sept. 24, 2003. The male convicts are confined at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City, and the females at the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong City.

Of this number, 143 are awaiting execution since the Supreme Court has affirmed their sentences.

According to Fr. Silvino Borres Jr., S.J., CADP coordinator, there are 11 death row convicts aged 70 years and above, and 16 who are minors. He pointed out that under Republic Act No.7659, minors and people over 70 should be exempt from capital punishment.

"Running priest" and civil rights activist Fr. Robert Reyes urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to "stop flip-flopping" on the issue. He noted that after the President promised "many times" to impose a moratorium on the death penalty, she made later announcements that it would still be enforced on certain criminals, such as drug lords.

While the Church acknowledged the rising crime rate and the widespread fear that it caused, Diamante said, "as Christians, we are called upon to uphold a set of moral principles, at the heart of which is the knowledge that the human person is the clearest reflection of God."

Inherently precious

Human life was "inherently precious," he said, "and those who commit crimes do not give up their human dignity." The CADP will hold a conference today at the Ateneo de Manila College Covered Court.

Headed by Bishop Pedro Arigo, vicar apostolic of Palawan, the episcopal mission said it was not suggesting that those who have committed crimes should not be punished. But, it asserted, justice did not require taking away the life of a criminal.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reported that the proposal repealing the death penalty has been endorsed by 15 senators and by the Senate committee on justice and human rights. But he said the bill was stuck in the legislative mill "because of the vigorous objections of pro-death senators."

Pimentel said the President's pro-life stand should serve as impetus for these senators to act on the measure, now on second reading.

Under Republic Act 7659, other crimes punishable by death are: murder, rape, big-time drug trafficking, kidnapping for ransom, treason, piracy, qualified bribery, parricide, infanticide, plunder, kidnapping and serious illegal detention, robbery with violence or intimidation, qualified carnapping and arson.

In a bid to break the impasse, some senators have proposed a compromise shortening the list, instead of an outright repeal.

Included in the proposal are murder, rape, big-time drug trafficking and kidnapping for ransom.

SO MUCH TO RUN FOR

Activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes is stopped by police from continuing his protest run against traditional politicians ("trapos") on Morayta St. in Manila on his way to Mendiola. Reyes has also called for an end to the death penalty.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, October 10, 2003
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Jl 1:13-15, 2:1-2
Gospel:	Lk 11:15-26

As Jesus was casting out a devil some of the people said, "He drives out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the chief of the demons." So others wanted to put him to the test by asking him for a heavenly sign.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every nation divided by civil war is on the road to ruin, and will fall. If Satan also is divided, his empire is coming to an end. How can you say that I drive out demons by calling upon Beelzebul? If I drive them out by Beelzebul, by whom do your fellow members drive out demons? They themselves will give you the answer.

"But suppose I drive out demons by the finger of God; would not this mean that the kingdom of God has come upon you? As long as the strong and armed man guards his house, his goods are safe. But when a stronger one attacks and overcomes him, the challenger takes away all the weapons he relied on and disposes of his spoils.

"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters.

"When the evil spirit goes out of a person, it wanders through dry lands looking for a resting place. And finding none, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds the house swept and everything in order. Then it goes to fetch seven other spirits even worse than itself. They move in and settle there, so that the last state of that person is worse than the first."

Commentary

"Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me, scatters." Freedom is not simply the ability to choose among alternatives. Real freedom is the ability to commit to the supreme good. The coming of Jesus is not an ordinary coming. It is a definitive coming and a decisive coming. One cannot remain neutral before Jesus. One has to make a decision: for Him or against Him, gather with Him or scatter. And this decision has to be a continuing decision that has to be coupled with fidelity. It is a big YES with small yeses of every day living. Are you ready with your yes? Are you committed to your yes?

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—When withdrawal of appeal a matter of right—Under Rule 50, Section 3 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, the withdrawal of an appeal is a matter of right before the filing of the appellee's brief. After that, withdrawal may be allowed in the discretion of the court. Said Rule is applicable to this case pursuant to Rule 124, Section 18 of the 2000 Rules of Criminal Procedure. In the present case, accused-appellant's motion to withdraw his appeal was made only after the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) had filed the Brief for Appellee. However, the court had required appellant to file his Reply Brief per its Resolution dated December 10, 2001. It could therefore be said that the accused-appellant had not yet completed the process of filing briefs when he moved to withdraw his appeal, a situation which may call for a more liberal rule. Additionally, it is the court's impression that from the records of this case, appellant is hardly literate functionally and of very low socio-economic standing as a mere bangus fry catcher. In making his appeal, he is actually wagering his life as against his sentence below, a point not often stressed to or understood by the convict. In any event, this court admittedly has the discretion whether to grant or not the withdrawal sought. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Paradeza, G.R. No. 144590, February 7, 2003]

BY R. B. VERA

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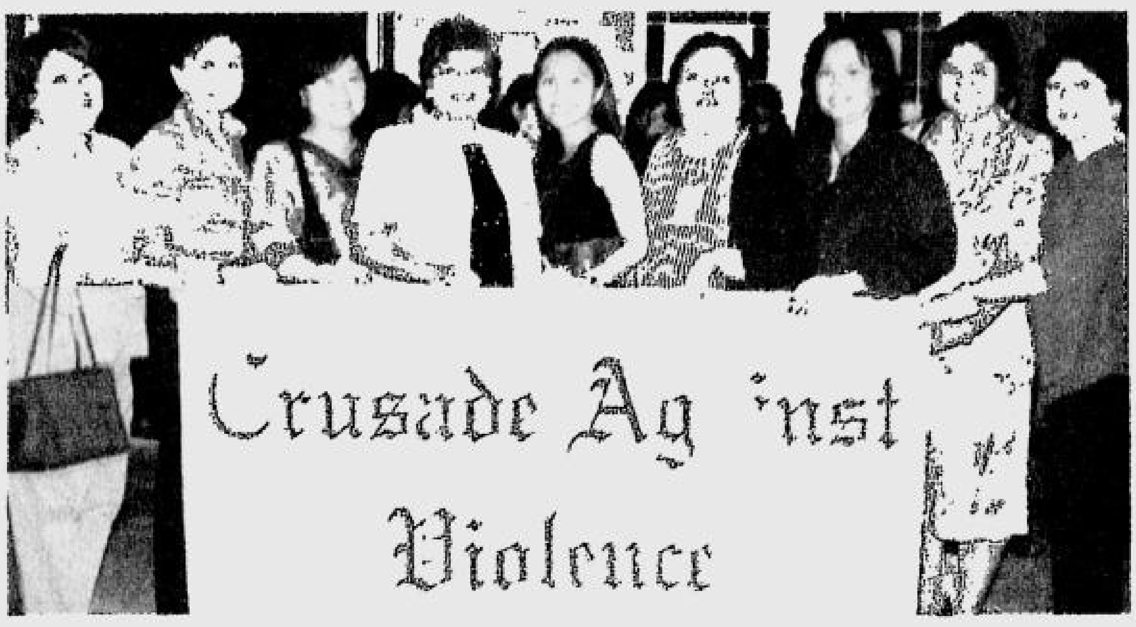
LENNY VILLA at 22: The candles on his birthday cake that his mother serves today will continue to guide her quest for truth and justice for all victims of heinous crimes.



A CRUSADE is born out of the senseless deaths of their loved ones. Gerarda Villa is fourth from left. Others in the photo areLily Uy, Grace Maguan, Kamille Limpo, Thelma Chiong, Myrna Juat, Clare Ferrer and Winnie Dorado.

Mom remembers: Heinous crimes…

From page A1

and prayers.

Because the Court of Appeals acquitted 17 of the 26 Aquila Legis fraternity members accused of killing you, I am determined to continue the fight for your sake. It warms my heart to know that your former classmates who are now lawyers have offered their assistance in seeing your case to its conclusion.

Your papa and I tried to pick up the pieces of our lives after you had gone. We knew that with the escalating number of heinous crimes being committed, we had to do something concrete for the victims and their families whose number steadily increased every day.

In your memory, and for the sake of the countless victims of senseless crimes, your papa, together with Mr. Anders Hultman, Maureen's dad, decided to form an organization to be composed of families of victims of heinous crimes. As a collective force, it was hoped that the bereaved families would have a chance to get justice.

Your papa and I, the Hultmans, Prosecutor and Mrs. Bernabe, Ellis and Grace Maguan founded the Crusade Against Violence. We had a common bond as we were all struggling to pick up the pieces of our lives after the senseless and brutal deaths of our loved ones.

Now that your papa is gone (Lenny's father, former BIR Deputy Commissioner Romulo, died in 1999—Ed), I try to derive strength from the memory of both of you, the two men whom I have loved the most. Upon his death, I took over the chairmanship of the CAV, and I am proud to say that it has developed into an organization that continues to provide a package of assistance to all those who have been hurt by heinous crime. We try to transform the negative feeling of loss and anger into something positive, that is, preventing other people from being victims like you.

Carina Agarao, the CAV's third president, spearheaded the change in the general thrust and direction of the organization. Now, we are actively involved in addressing the flaws of the justice system to make it more responsive to the ever-changing needs of the times. By doing so, we hope to renew the faith of our countrymen in our legal system.

We have won some cases as CAV provided lawyers on a pro bono basis when the victims' families could not get one. We have worked closely with the police for the immediate arrest of suspects. We have been successful in convincing witnesses to testify in court.

We take pride in the fact that the Feliber Andres case was promulgated only seven months after it happened despite the fact that the accused was highly connected. We were also instrumental in the conviction of the accused in the Marijoy and Jacqueline Chiong murder case, even if the accused is a scion of a prominent Cebu family!

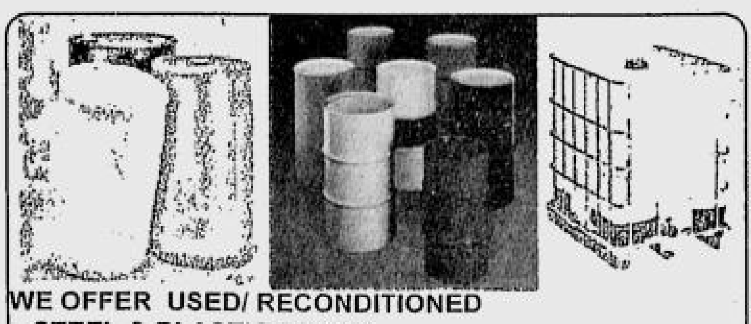
We know that the list of victims shall go on and on. If only we could find a way to stop crime in our country, we would. We would like to see the day that peace would reign and our organization, the CAV become obsolete.

Your spirit continues to inspire me to strive for peace and justice; not only for you, Leonard, but also for the many more like you and their families whose hopes have been dashed by senseless crimes.

May the candles on the birthday cake that I will prepare in your honor tonight, serve as the guiding light to lead us to our unending quest for the peace, truth and justice that we all truly deserve. Happy birthday, Leonard, my son.

Love, Mama

(Note: A Mass to celebrate Lenny's birthday will be held today, Oct. 10 at the Santa Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan Road, Quezon City at 10 a.m. For inquiries, please contact the national headquarters of the Crusade Against Violence at 14F Sagittarius Building, HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati, or call 8130473 or 8130483 or (032) 4134295 (Cebu).



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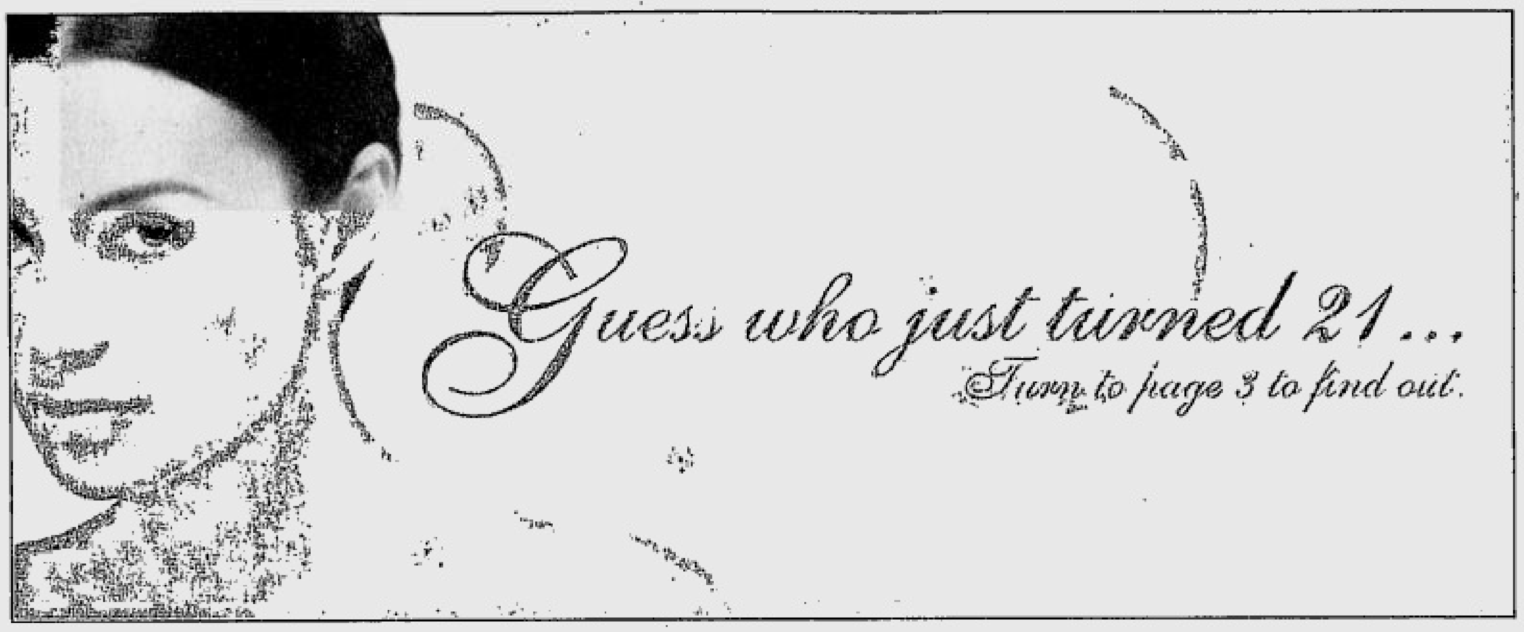
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Retired Sin will not be gagged

By Jerome Aning

MANILA Archbishop Emeritus Jaime Cardinal Sin will continue to speak out on national issues, having retired only from administrative work, according to his spokesperson.

"He continues to be a Filipino, a church man, a priest of the Gospel. Therefore, he will continue to contribute whatever he can for the good of the country—be it (in the area of) the environment, family life, socio-political life, (or) business," said Manila auxiliary bishop Socrates Villegas on Wednesday during a testimonial lunch hosted by the Makati Business Club.

After the lunch, which was held at Sin's Villa San Miguel residence in Mandaluyong City, MBC officials Roberto Romulo, Guillermo Luz and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala took turns praising the retired archbishop and his achievements.

The Pope accepted Sin's resignation on Sept. 15. The ailing Cardinal submitted it on Aug. 31 when he turned 75, the mandatory retirement age for bishops. Sin's successor, Lipa archbishop Gaudencio Rosales, will be installed on Nov. 21.

In an interview, Ayala described Sin as "the unfailing voice of conscience and compassion in our society for the past three decades."

The MBC vice chair added: "His record is remarkable because it was not carved from public office where we Filipinos normally look for leadership. Rather (it) radiated from the Church and the pulpit where we seek solace and comfort—and it radiated in a way that was unassailable."

Romulo, MBC chair, said Sin could not just fade away from the national scene. "I think he will feel it appropriate to keep quiet for the moment in view of his retirement, but he is irrepressible. So in time I know he will speak up ... maybe when the election campaign begins," he told reporters.

In his brief message, Sin thanked the businessmen for "carrying on my crusade for righteousness, truth and justice. We want the same thing, a better Philippines, a brighter tomorrow."

He vowed: "I will continue to proclaim the truth and the good even if it costs me my very life because it is my sole obligation to God and to all of you."

When he became a cardinal in 1976, Sin said, he realized he had been called to "greater martyrdom and witnessing." He said being a cardinal was not just about having a "princely" title. In fact, he said, his 29 years of ministry in Manila was "full of challenges and trials."

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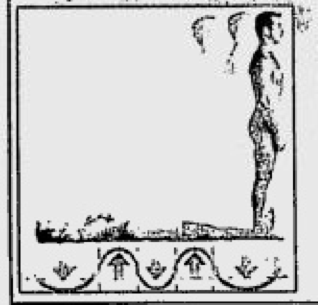

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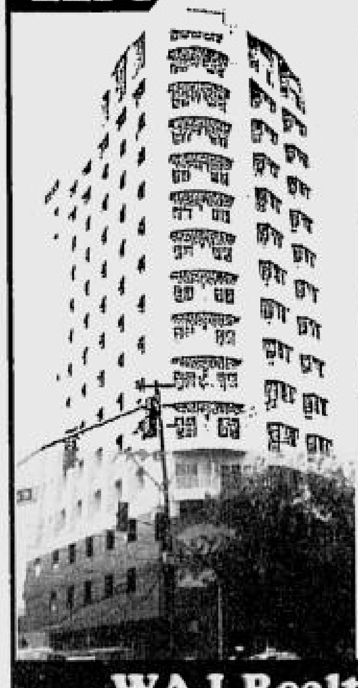

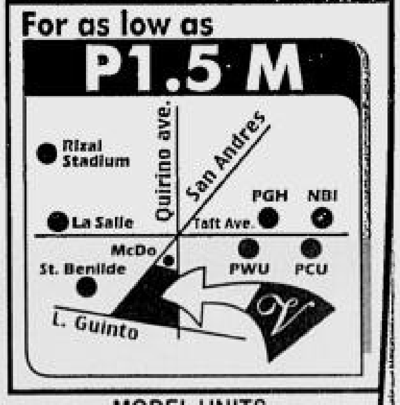

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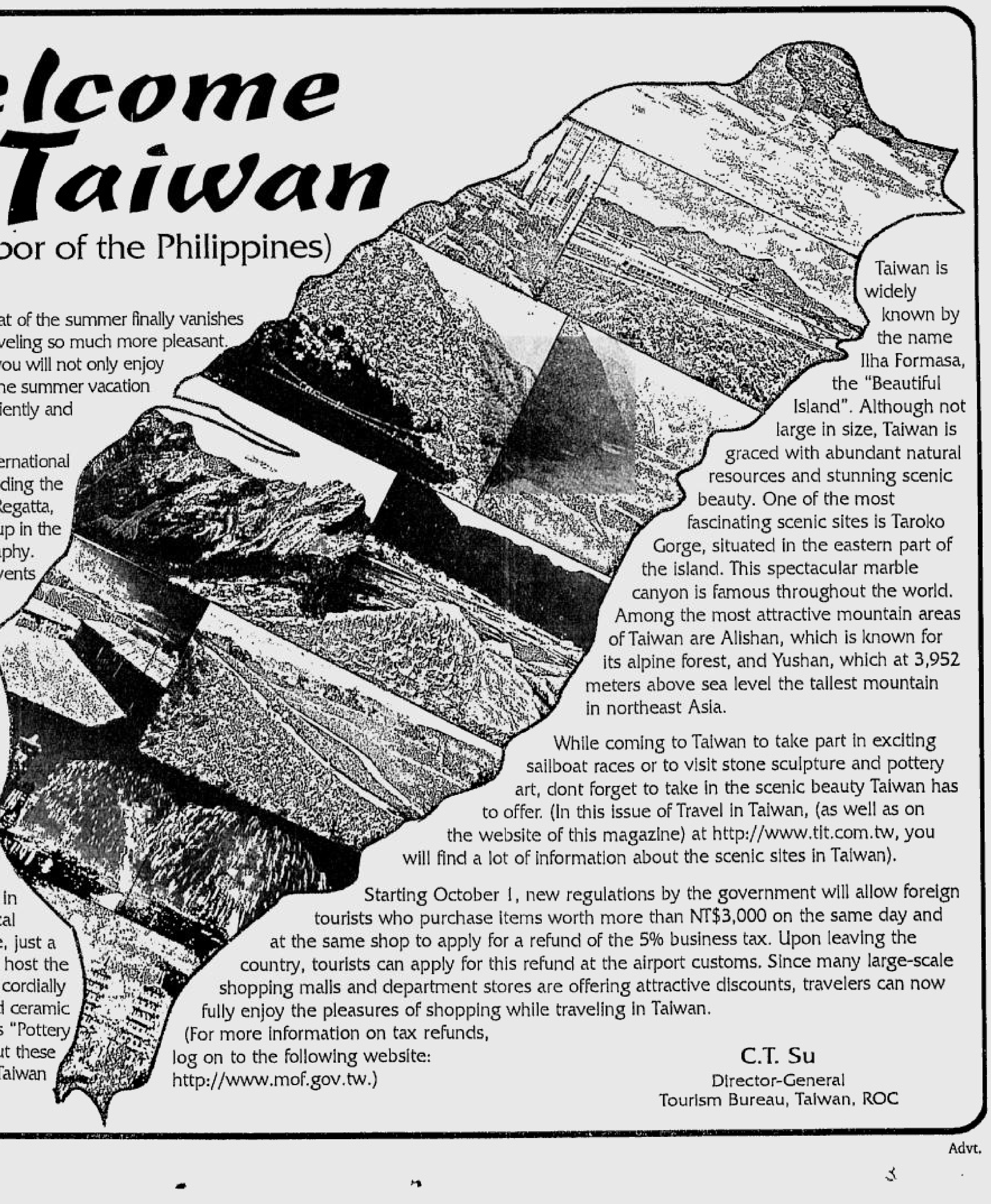


Welcome to Taiwan
(The closest Neighbor of the Philippines)

Message from the Tourism Bureau, Taiwan

October is the time in Taiwan when the heat of the summer finally vanishes and the refreshing air of autumn makes traveling so much more pleasant. If you come to Taiwan during this season, you will not only enjoy cooler temperatures but also stay clear of the summer vacation crowds. Enjoy your trip even more conveniently and undisturbed!

This month there will be many exciting international sports events and activities in Taiwan, including the 2003 Taiwan Corona King of Wind Sailing Regatta, which takes place in Penghu, the island group in the Taiwan Straits known for its unique topography. The event is one of the official qualifying events for the 2004 Olympic Games. It is also the only leg of the Olympic campaign in Asia. Sailors from around the world, including past Olympic gold medal winners, present world champions, and athletes from Japan, will take part and try toscore points needed for Olympic qualification.

Another important event of the month will be staged on Taiwan's east coast in Hualien, the city that is world-famous for its marble production. The annual International Hualien Stone Sculpture Festival this year brings master sculptors from around the world to Taiwan to engage in cultural and artistic exchange with local stone artists. The pottery town of Yingge, just a short train trip south of Taipei, will again host the annual Yingge Ceramics Festival. You are cordially invited to enjoy the beauty of pottery and ceramic art at the festival, which this year features "Pottery and Lanterns". (For more information about these and other events, visit the website of the Taiwan Tourism Bureau at http://taiwan.net.tw.)

Taiwan is widely known by the name Ilha Formasa, the "Beautiful Island". Although not large in size, Taiwan is graced with abundant natural resources and stunning scenic beauty. One of the most fascinating scenic sites is Taroko Gorge, situated in the eastern part of the island. This spectacular marble canyon is famous throughout the world. Among the most attractive mountain areas of Taiwan are Alishan, which is known for its alpine forest, and Yushan, which at 3,952 meters above sea level the tallest mountain in northeast Asia.

While coming to Taiwan to take part in exciting sailboat races or to visit stone sculpture and pottery art, dont forget to take in the scenic beauty Taiwan has to offer. (In this issue of Travel in Taiwan, (as well as on the website of this magazine) at http://www.tit.com.tw, you will find a lot of information about the scenic sites in Taiwan).

Starting October 1, new regulations by the government will allow foreign tourists who purchase items worth more than NT$3,000 on the same day and at the same shop to apply for a refund of the 5% business tax. Upon leaving the country, tourists can apply for this refund at the airport customs. Since many large-scale shopping malls and department stores are offering attractive discounts, travelers can now fully enjoy the pleasures of shopping while traveling in Taiwan. (For more information on tax refunds, log on to the following website: http://www.mof.gov.tw.)

C.T. Su
Director-General
Tourism Bureau, Taiwan, ROC

Advt.

RP bishops get earful from Pope

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II attacked Thursday the "scandalous behavior" of some Roman Catholic priests who ignore the church's requirement of chastity.

Speaking to a group of visiting bishops from the Philippines, the Pontiff said, "The scandalous behavior of a few has undermined the credibility of many."

He also said that the priesthood could not be regarded as a job like any other but as a vocation that required spiritual training and doctrinal instruction.

"Today's clergy must be careful not to adopt the secular view of the priesthood as a profession, a career or a means of earning a living.

"Rather, the clergy must see the priesthood as a vocation to selfless, loving service, embracing wholeheartedly the 'esteemed gift of celibacy' and all that this involves," the Holy Father said.

"Here I wish to emphasize that celibacy is to be regarded as an integral part of the priest's exterior and interior life, and not just as a long-standing ideal which is to be respected," he said.

Last month, 34 priests in the Philippines, the only Catholic nation in Southeast Asia, were suspended for sexual abuse as part of a sweeping reform of the Church in the country.

Catholic bishops issued a rare public apology in July after two senior bishops – Teodoro Bacani and Crisostomo Yalung – were implicated in sex scandals.

Church authorities would not reveal the identities of the bishops or priests or disclose any details of the cases.

"Sadly, the lifestyle of some clergy has been a countersign to the spirit of the evangelical counsels which should be a part of the spirituality of every priest," the Pope said.

The revelation of the sex scandals came as the Philippines' Catholic bishops were preparing a protocol for dealing with the sexual misdeeds of priests.

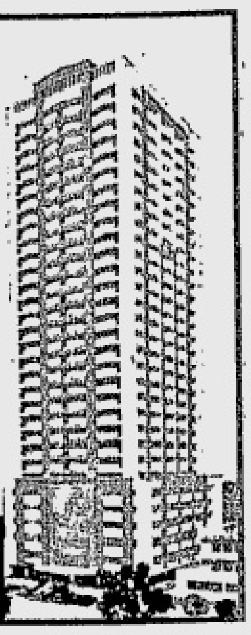
Under a draft of the protocol—due to be submitted to the Vatican—priests who father a child or break their vow of celibacy may have to undergo some form of religious "rehabilitation."

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines said it was sorry for the "actual or alleged sexual misconduct of some of its shepherds" as well as for cases of fiscal mismanagement by certain priests.

John Paul II told the visiting bishops that once a candidate to the priesthood has been selected, the process of preparing him to be a good and holy priest begins.

"This demands that 'the spiritual formation and doctrinal instruction of the students in a seminary be harmoniously blended,'" he said.

"We can speak here of the diverse types of formation: human formation, which assists the candidate to live and internalize priestly virtues, especially those of simplicity, chastity, prudence, patience and obedience," the Pope said. *AFP*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As mandated by Section 10, RA 8557, the Philippine Judicial Academy, (PHILJA), the educational arm of the Supreme Court, will conduct it's 7th Pre-Judicature Program, on November 10 - 28, 2003 at Cagayan De Oro City. It is prescribed for lawyers who aspire for appointment as judges for first-level courts, second-level courts and the Court of Tax Appeals and Justices of the Sandiganbayan, and the Court of Appeals.

A qualifying interview shall determine the eligibility of the participants to be accepted in the program. A written Comprehensive Examination is part of the course.

The Academic Officials will be at VIP Hotel, Don Apolinar Velez St., Cagayan De Oro City, on October 30-31, 2003, to conduct the preliminary interview and screening for qualified applicants for the program, on which occasion, the required registration fee must be paid. Interview and screening will also be conducted at PHILJA, Manila, 3/F Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue cor Faura, Manila.

The Pre-Judicature Program is also accredited for purposes of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE).

Interested parties may make their reservations at PHILJA through telefax nos. 552-9518, 552-9517 addressed to Judge Priscila S. Agana, Executive Secretary, or at telefax no. 552-9526. Registration Forms and Personal Data Sheets can be downloaded at www.supremecourt.gov.ph

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

BULACAN

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS CALUMPIT 32YQ, 38YQ, 322YQ, 323YQ, 324YQ AND 325YQ AND MALOLOS 32YV, 33YV, 34YV AND 35YV

The whole of Calumpit and Pulilan.

Bgys. Kapitagan, Palapat, San Juan, San Miguel, San Agustin, Sto. Niño, San Sebastian, San Nicolas, Marulao, Hanga, San Isidro, Tampoc, Sta. Monica, San Jose, Mercado, Santa Cruz, San Roque, Santo Rosario and San Pascual in Hagonoy.

Bgys. Longos, San Vicente, Ligas, Bungahan, Pinagbakahan, Sumara Malanda, Sumara Bata, Dakila, Catmon, Sto. Niño, Anilao and Caingin in Malolos.

Bgys. Sto. Rosario, Adolola, San Isidro, Poblacion, San Jose, Malumol, San Roque, Kut-kut, Roque, Lantad, Binaklod, Masukol, Pugad and Sta. Cruz in Paombong.

Bgys. Trinidad, Lagundi, Look, Plaridel town proper, Santo Cristo, Bulihan Dulo and Lalangon in Plaridel.

REASON: Various maintenance work inside Meralco-Calumpit and Meralco-Malolos substations.

SAN JUAN, M.M.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (SAT.,10/11/03) AND 5:15AM (SUN.,10/12/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CUBAO 45VQ

Virra Mall inside Greenhills Shopping Center.

REASON: Replacement of customer equipment inside Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan.

MONDAY TO TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13-14, 2003

RIZAL (CAINTA)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON.,10/13/03) AND 3:00AM (TUE.,10/14/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CAINTA 423XG

Portion of Karangalan Village along Karangalan Drive from Felix Ave. to and including Karunungan Road, Kasiyahan, St., Kagitingan and Kalinisan St.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Felix Ave. in Karangalan Village in Cainta, Rizal.

QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON.,10/13/03) AND 5:30AM (TUE.,10/14/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS BALINTAWAK 41E AND 57E; AND KAYBIGA 46YX

Portion of Quirino Highway from near Makro to Diamond St. including Allied Metals, Solville, Cadaing Subd., Carreon Subd., Pleasantville, Silvina Village, Arty Subd., San Agustin Village, Jem 7 Subd., Gloria-5 Subd., HBC Cpd., Honeywell Industries, London Ind'l Products, Engleco, Lincoln Electric, Wilcon Builders and Euro Chem in Bgys. Talipapa, Bagbag and San Bartolome.

Along Don Julio Gregorio (Sauyo) Road from Quirino Highway to and including Greenheights Executive Village 3, Jem-6 Subd., Roxas Circle Subd., Dalwantan Subd., Victoria Subd., Richland 1 Subd., Marian Subd., Del Nacia-4 Subd., Napocor Village 1, Villa Aurora Subd., Zytek-Riosa Subd., Riosa City Subd., Villa Estrella Subd., San Pedro-6 Subd., NLA Village, Sitio Cabuyao, Summerville, Oceanpark Subd., Lipton Subd., Elboy's Apartment and Manchester Industrial Subd. in Bgy. Sauyo.

Along King Alexander, King Christopher, King Edward, King Ferdinand Sts. and Kalipunan Ave. from Quirino Highway to and including Goodwill Ave., Goodwill Homes 1 and Kingspoint Subd. in Bgy. Bagbag.

REASON: Upgrading of primary lines and various maintenance work along Sauyo Road, and relocation of poles along Quirino Highway in Bgys. Sauyo and Bagbag, Quezon City.

MANILA (PUNTA AND BACOOD); AND MANDALUYONG CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON.,10/13/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE.,10/14/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MESA 41F-PANDACAN 48M-STA. ANA 45VN

Portion of F. Manalo St. in Punta, Sta. Ana and New Panaderos near Lambigan Bridge in Mandaluyong City.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON.,10/13/03) AND 5:30AM (TUE.,10/14/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 41F-PANDACAN 48M-STA. ANA 45VN; AND PANDACAN 13M

Portion of Lubiran from Cordillera to near Bacood St. including Batas, Katwiran, portion of Dalisay, Kalinga, Damayan Sts., Sisters of Mary Cpd., Manila Bay Hosiery Mills and Meralco Manila District Cpd. in Bgy. Bacood, Sta. Mesa.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Dalisay and Lubiran Sts. in Bgy. Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2003

MANILA, QUEZON CITY, MANDALUYONG CITY; AND SAN JUAN

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 41F-PANDACAN 48M-STA. ANA 45VN AND SAN JUAN 17VF

Portion of V. Mapa, Old Sta. Mesa, R. Magsaysay Blvd. and Sociego Sts. in Sta. Mesa.

Portion of Santol, Palanza, Araneta Ave. including Arlington Memorial, Contemporary Hotel and Robbinsdale Hotel in Bgy. Doña Imelda, Quezon City.

Portion of F. Manalo St. from N. Domingo to P. Parada including Int'l Oil Factory, portion of Gen. Bautista, R. Pascual, J. Wright, San Luis, San Pablo, San Miguel, A. Villa, R. Fernandez, A. Rita, Blumentritt, A. Diego, V. Angeles, G. Soriano, M. Marcos, L. Gruet, V. Cruz, P. Parada, Barcelona, J. Asinas, Vicencio, Wilson, Liege, Allenby, Maude, P. Guevarra, L. Mencias, P. Gomez, Arellano, Argonne, Hoover and J. Vargas in Bgys. Addition Hills, Maytunas, Sta. Lucia, Kabayanan and Batis in San Juan.

Portion of Gen. Kalentong and F. Roxas from San Juan boundary to Lambingan Bridge including The Marketplace Mall in Mandaluyong City.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS STA. MESA 41F-PANDACAN 48M-STA. ANA 45VN AND SAN JUAN 17VF

Portion of F. Blumentritt from L. Santos to A. Bonifacio Sts. including Dominican College, M.Y. San Biscuits, Little Baguio Gardens Condominium, portion of L. Santos, J. Basa, F. Sevilla, J. Arellano, Regidor, Villamor, A. Rita, Valenzuela, E. Fernandez, R. Fernandez, Gen. Bautista, S. Tuaño, R. Pascual, Bugallon, F. Roxas, Florante, J. Rizal, Carriedo, J. Panganiban, V. Agan, San Luis, A. Bonifacio, Montoya, Hilltop and San Miguel Sts. in Bgys. Pedro Cruz, Tibagan, and Onse in San Juan.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along F. Blumentritt near A. Bonifacio and Valenzuela Sts. in San Juan.

BULACAN (NORZAGARAY)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 12:00MN - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT NPC-ANGAT 42AG-SAN JOSE 41SJ

Republic Aggregates Compound in Bgy. Hulo.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Transco-San Jose substation.(16 hrs.)

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14-15, 2003

MUNTINLUPA CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (TUE.,10/14/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (WED.,10/15/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS GARDNER 57GG, AND SAN PEDRO 46WH

Portion of National Highway from near Camella Homes 3 to near Estanislao St. including JPA Subd., Caltex and Tepaurel Compound in Bgy. Poblacion.

Along San Guillermo St., J.P. Rizal and E. Rodriguez Aves. from Esporlas Compound to and including R. Victorio St., Ayala Land, Freewill Subd., Nuhrain Village, Greenville in Bgy. Putatan, Quezon, Burgos, Umali, Espeleta, Amparo, St. Ann, Sto. Niño, Sta. Rita, St. Bngette, St. Cecile, St. Mary, St. Katherine Sts., Sto. Niño Subd., Balimbing Drive, Camella Homes, Chowking, Magdaong Drive and Castañeda St. in Bgy. Poblacion.

Portion of National Highway from R.A. Cruz Ave. to near Agro Homes including Caltex in Bgy. Putatan.

Along R.A. Cruz Ave. from National Highway to and including Tirad Pass, Mactan, Corregidor, Bagumbayan, Intramuros, Capinpin, Gen. Lim, Ariza, Gen. Luna, Camella, Canary, Aguila, Pitpit, Everest, Lawin, Narra, Chico, Aratelis, Kamagong, Molave Sts., Eagle Ave., Soldier's Hill Subd. and Treelane Subd. in Bgy. Putatan.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE.,10/14/03) AND 6:00AM (WED.,10/15/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS GARDNER 57GG; AND SAN PEDRO 46WH

Along National Highway from near R.A. Cruz Ave. to near J.P. Rizal Ave. including Country Homes in Bgy. Poblacion; Agro Homes, Muntinlupa City Hall, Estanislao St., Medical Center Muntinlupa, Bruger Subd., Lakeview Homes, La Charina Homes, South Super Vill., Camella Homes, South Greenheights Subd., Sunflower, Gardenia, Hyacinth, Everlasting, Morning Glory, Prime Rose, Rose Mary, Yellowbill Sts. and Soliven Avenida in Bgy. Putatan.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and contaminated insulators and various line rehabilitation work along National Highway in Bgys. Putatan and Poblacion, Muntinlupa City.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2003

MANDALUYONG CITY, MANILA (STA. ANA) AND MAKATI CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ROCKWELL 412VV-PANDACAN 43M

Portion of Rev. G. Aglipay from near Boni Ave. to P. Cruz St. including portion of I. Cruz, G. Enriquez, Calaculan, J. Rizal, M. Alcaraz, Martines, Castañeda Sts., Bellamaja Townhomes, Universal Motors Corp., Sterling Tobacco, Pacific Glass Mktg., EEI Cpd., Ruby Industrial Corp., Dreamland Subd. and Wonderland Townhomes in Bgys. Vergara and Namayan, Mandaluyong City.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ROCKWELL 412VV-PANDACAN 43M

Portion of P. Domingo and A.P. Reyes Ave. from Syquia St. in Sta. Ana to near Kalayaan Ave. in Makati City including portion of Havana St. and PILTEL Cpd.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along Syquia near Havana Sts. and line rehabilitation along P. Domingo in Sta. Ana, Manila.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2003

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BAGBAGUIN 415YZ

Portion P. Dela Cruz, Tatalon and G. Angeles (Sto. Rosario) Sts. from Riverside in Bgy. Ugong to near Daily Sun Food Products in Bgy. Mapulang Lupa including Kowloon Industrial Subd.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BAGBAGUIN 415YZ

Portion of Mapulang Lupa and G. Angeles Sts. from near Apolonia St. to near Daily Sun Food Products including Benito Jao St. and Master Industrial Compound in Bgy. Mapulang Lupa.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole along G. Angeles St. in Bgy. Mapulang Lupa, Valenzuela City.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS BALINTAWAK 41E AND 404E

Portion of Howmart, Baesa and Reparo Roads from EDSA in Bgy. Apolonio Samson to near Tandang Sora Ave. in Bgy. Sta. Quiteria including Columbia Wires and Cables, Sysco Paper, Goodyear Steel Pipe, Grand Engineering and Foundry, Oerlikon Phil. Electrode, Paperland, Reliance Packaging, Stonehill Steel, Daytona Trading, Phil. Fabrikoid, Jordanville Homes, Bayanihan Subd., Alta Vista Homes, Ruby Ville Subd., Tolentino Cpd., Bgys. Baesa and Balong Bato.

Portion of Quirino Highway from near Dimaano Road to near Tandang Sora Ave. including Century Container, Paperland, Phil. Publishing House, Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, NHA Balintawak Teachers' Village and Baesa Industrial Terminal.

Portion of Mendez Road from near F. Carlos St. to Quirino Highway including Dominga Village.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS BALINTAWAK 41E AND 404E

Portion of Private Road from MERALCO-Balintawak substation to F. Carlos St. and Mendez Road in Bgy. Apolonio Samson.

REASON: Reconstruction of primary lines inside MERALCO-Balintawak substation.

PASIG CITY AND TAGUIG CITY AND RIZAL (TAYTAY)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TAGUIG 49ZL AND 50ZL

Portion of Elizco Road and Tipas-Napindan Road (A. Natividad) from Meralco-Taguig substation to near Villa Cuana St. including Grad Mix Concrete, Capasco and Italil in Bgy. Napindan, Taguig City.

Portion of Hon. Alfonso Sandoval Ave. from near Pasig Slaughterhouse to and including Greenwoods Ave., Palacios de Almazora, Greenwoods Executive Village in Taytay, Rizal; Sitio Ilugin Matanza Phase I, Rodil Compound, Golden Homes, Villa Alegre, Villa Gloria 3 Subd., Total Gas LPG and MC Nova Apparel in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

Along M.H. del Pilar Ave. from Willa Rey Village to near Meralco-Pasig substation including Ireneo, San Agustin, Market Aves., Bedana, Kap. Ato and Dr. Pilapil Sts. in Bgys. Sto. Tomas, Sagad and Sta. Cruz; Woodline Phils., Villa Miguela Subd., Suarezville Subd. and Villatech Subd. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TAGUIG 49ZL AND 50ZL

Along Hon. Sandoval Ave. from Villa Cuana St. to Pasig Slaughterhouse including Anchor Steel in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

REASON: Replacement of insulators along Hon. Alfonso Sandoval Ave. in Bgy. Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City.

BULACAN

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS TABANG 32YH AND 34YH

Portion of McArthur Highway from near Tikay Road to near Congreso St. including Veritas Cpd., Paradise Resort, Bulacan Driving Range, PT & T and Bgy. Tikay in Malolos.

Along Maharlika Highway from McArthur Highway to near North Diversion Road including Champaca, Gladiola, Hyacinth, Lily, Macopa, Lanzones, Rosaryville, Sta. Rita, Sto. Lorenzo, Ligaya, Tomas, Sampaguita, Ilang-ilang Sts., Golden and Violeta Aves., Tieradyao Subd., Violeta Subd., Violeta Ville Annex I, Rosaryville 1 & 2, Felville Subd., St. Agatha Homes, Sta. Clara Estate, Maunlad Homes, Sta. Rita Elementary School, Masagana Subd., Hoc Po Feeds and Hydro-Pipes in Guiguinto.

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco-Tabang substation to Maharlika Highway including Bgy. Sanlor, FBIC Compound, Prima Plastic Mfg., Pacific Valley Inc., Oracle Petroleum, Liquid Packaging Corp., Fruit Asia Inc., AVA Fleming Laboratory, Ad-Drugstel Pharmaceutical Lab., Glowdel Lab. and Mfg. Inc., Caltex, Philko Peroxide Corp. and Sucere Foods Corp. in Plaridel.

REASON: Various maintenance work inside Meralco-Tabang substation and various line rehabilitation works along McArthur Highway and Mabini St. in Malolos, Bulacan.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16-17, 2003

MARIKINA CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU.,10/16/03) AND 4:00AM (FRI.,10/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MARIKINA 45VG AND 53VG

Along Chorillo St. from A. Bonifacio Ave. to and including Crysanthenum, Orchid, Don Gonzalo Puyat and Lopez Jaena Sts.

Along Chorillo St. from A. Bonifacio Ave. to and including Crysanthenum, Magnolia, Orchids, Don Gonzalo Puyat and Barangka Elementary School in Bgy. Barangka.

Along C. de Leon St. from Don Gonzalo Puyat to and including Lopez Jaena, Tañong Elementary School, Sta Monica Medical Clinic and Rivera Apartments in Bgy Barangka.

REASON: Replacement of rotten and badly leaning poles in Chorillo and Jaena Sts. in Marikina City.

PARAÑAQUE CITY AND LAS PIÑAS CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (THU.,10/16/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI.,10/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS BF-PARAÑAQUE 42WU-PARAÑAQUE 45ZJ; AND PARAÑAQUE 18ZJ

Portion of Quirino Ave. from Meralco-Parañaque substation to near Balagtas St. including Jonas Compound Seaside Homes, Villa Ver Court, IEMELIF Church and McDonough St. in Bgys. Tambo and Don Galo, Parañaque.

Along Dimatimbangan St. from Quirino Ave. to and including Damayan de Leon, Gomburza, Rosal and Dahlia Sts. in Bgys. Sto. Niño and Ibayo, Parañaque.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU.,10/16/03) AND 6:00AM (FRI.,10/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS BF-PARAÑAQUE 42WU-PARAÑAQUE 45ZJ; AND PARAÑAQUE 18ZJ

Portion of Quirino Ave., M.H. del Pilar St. and Tramo Road from Balangas St. to near Bgy. Manuyo including St. Paul College, St. Andrew School, Patricio, Gomez, Rodriguez, Dandan, Leonardo, Pelaez, Bonifacio, Real Sts., Kabihasnan Road, Parañaque Municipal High School and Jaleville Subd. in Bgys. La Huerta and San Dionisio, Parañaque.

Portion of Manila-Cavite Coastal Road from PNCC Office in Bgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque to near Island Subd. in Bgy. Pulang Lupa Uno, Las Piñas.

REASON: Reconstruction of lines along Don Galo-La Huerta Bridge in Parañaque City.

MALABON

BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU., 10/16/03) AND 4:30AM (FRI., 10/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 45YD

Portion of Sanciangco St. from near Letre Road to near Pinagpala St. in Bgy. Tonsuya.

Along M. Aquino and N. Vicencio Sts. from Sanciangco St. including Encarnacion Court, Allwan Road, P. Bautista, E. Aquino and Santos St. in Bgy. Niugan.

REASON: Replacement of rotten pole and contaminated insulators along Sanciangco St. in Bgy. Tonsuya, Malabon.

MANILA (PACO AND MALATE)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (THU.,10/16/03) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI.,10/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TEGEN 43B; AND MALATE 22J

Portion of Singalong St. from Pedro Gil in Paco to Kap. Tikong St. in Malate including portion of Perez, G. Apacible, Looban, J. Escoda, Dart, Gen. Luna, Pedro Gil, Gen. Malvar, Remedios, San Isidro, F. Muñoz, A. Francisco, Zapanta and Dagnoy Sts. in Malate.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU.,10/16/03) AND 6:00AM (FRI.,10/17/03) - PORTION OF CIRCUITS TEGEN 43B; AND MALATE 22J

Portion of San Andres St. from San Marcelino to near South Super Highway including Smith, Anakbayan, Texas, Mataas na Lupa, portion of Singalong, F. Muñoz, C. Aragon and Fermin Sts. in Malate.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Singalong near San Andres Sts. in Malate.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2003

CALOOCAN CITY

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT GRACE PARK 415RD

Along Laong Laan St. from near Ciriaconame St. to and including 5th and 4th Aves. in Grace Park.

Along Baltazar St. from Meralco-Grace Park substation to Narra St. including Capas St. and A. de Leon St. in Grace Park.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT GRACE PARK 415RD

Along Baltazar St. from Yakal St. to 5th Ave. in Grace Park.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and upgrading of primary lines along Baltazar St., Grace Park, Caloocan City.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2003

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 43VU

Along BF Road from near Commonwealth Ave. to and including Mapayapa Village I, II & III, FEU Compound, Ferndale Village, Pingkian Village, Silver Land Village, Isadora Hills, Granwood Villas and Bgy. Holy Spirit.

REASON: Reconductoring of existing primary lines to give way to the expansion of Kaybiga feeders along Narra St. in Mapayapa Village.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM - THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT ABUBOT 37XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Meralco-Abubot substation to Congressional Road.

Along Congressional Road from Gen. E Aguinaldo Highway to DBB Highway including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Burol, Manuela Village, Summerwind IV and Southcrest Village.

Along DBB Highway including Burol I and II, Area H, Sta. Fe, Fatima I, Umakap Ka Cpd., Cluster A, Fatima 3, Area E, San Antonio de Padua, Cluster N, Sta. Maria, San Francisco, Cluster B, Cilihomes, Bo. San Mateo, Cluster D, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Area C, Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas.

REASON: Repair work inside Meralco-Abubot substation.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2003

TAGUIG CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 53VJ AND 412VJ

Along East Service Road of South Superhighway from Nat'l Manpower and Skills Center Compound to and including AFP Home Defense Training Center, Air Navigation Service (ATO), CAA Compound, TESDA, PAL Technical Center and Villamor Air Base in Western Bicutan.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUITS MALIBAY 53VJ AND 412VJ

Along East Service Road of South Superhighway from near AFP Road to near Merville Ave. including AFP RSBS Ind'l Park, AFP Officers' Housing and TUP-Taguig in Western Bicutan.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and contaminated insulators along East Service Road in Western Bicutan, Taguig City.

QUEZON CITY

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 8:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:30PM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 45VU

Portion of Don Mariano Marcos Ave. (Commonwealth Ave.) from Capitol Park Homes Subd. to MERALCO-Commonwealth Branch including Don Antonio Royale Estates, Tivoli Green Subd., Vista Real Subd., Capitol Park Homes Subd., Capitol Homes Subd., McDonald's, Ever Gotesco and New Capitol Estates Subd. in Bgy. Old Balara.

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 4:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT DILIMAN 45VU

Portion of Don Mariano Marcos Ave. (Commonwealth Ave.) from MERALCO-Commonwealth Branch to near Katuparan St. including Sandigan Bayan and COA in Sitio Gao.

Portion of Batasan Road and Filinvest Drive from Don Mariano Marcos Ave. to near Kalayaan St. including Luzviminda Village, Ciudad Regina, Doña Pilar Cpd. and Filinvest Homes 1 in Bgy. Batasan Hills.

REASON: Relocation of primary facilities affected by DPWH road widening project along Don Mariano Marcos Ave. in Sitio Gao and Old Balara, Quezon City.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule.

For more information, please contact our **CALL CENTER** at telephone number **16211**, fax nos. 1622-8556 and 1622-8554, or e-mail address **callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph**. For faster resolution of inquiries please use the *Bill ID Number or Service Identification Number (SIN)* indicated in your electric bills.

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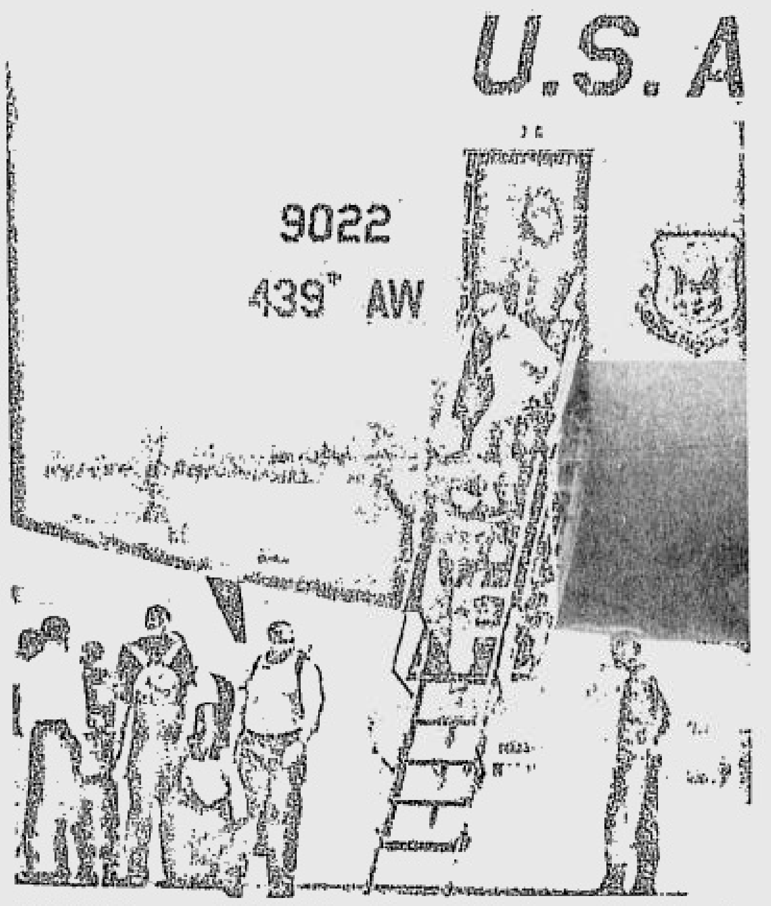


ADVANCE party of US President George W. Bush consists of Secret Service personnel, who arrived on Thursday afternoon on board a C5-A Galaxy aircraft which landed at the Naia. ROGER MARGALLO

RP faces ...

From page A1

"There are no specific threats against any particular country. There's no specific threat against the Philippines."

General alert

Golez said there was a general alert in the region for attacks in reaction to the arrest of Riduan Islamuddin, alias Hambali, the suspected chief of al-Qaida operations in Southeast Asia, and the conviction of several Muslim militants for the Bali bombings.

The terror alert extended across Southeast Asia and as far as northern Australia, he said.

"We are closely monitoring the JI situation in close coordination with security and intelligence counterparts in the region," Golez said.

Just the same, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has reinforced security at foreign embassies and other "soft targets."

"We have beefed up our securities in some soft targets like embassies, residences of the members of the diplomatic corps, malls, clubs, hotels which we believe need more security concerns," said Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, AFP information officer.

Amid the new warnings, the AFP said it believed it was closing in on fugitive JI bomb-maker Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, after Abu Sayyaf bandit Omar Lasal Opik was arrested at a checkpoint on Wednesday. *(See story on Page A9.)*

Still intact

Hill warned that the JI network appeared intact despite arrests around Southeast Asia and it may start to focus more heavily on the Philippines.

"JI has been able to continue planning and executing terrorist attacks despite the arrest of over 200 members, including some of its most senior operatives," Hill told the Royal United Services Institute conference.

Jemaah Islamiyah has been blamed for a string of terrorist strikes in Southeast Asia including the Oct. 12 bombings in Bali that killed 202 people and the attack on the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta in August where 12 people died.

Coordinated from RP

Many of JI's operations, however, are believed to have been coordinated from the Philippines.

Hill said the group would likely rely on its "proven method" of attack by improvised bombs placed in cars or trucks, but could try other tactics like suicide bombers.

"The use of suicide bombers is a possibility, but should not be overstated," he said.

He added: "Attacking soft targets in predominantly Christian areas fits JI's modus operandi and would be appealing to it," he added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday that she and other Asean leaders acknowledged at a summit in Bali, Indonesia, earlier this week "that in our region there is a strong terrorist threat and terrorists can strike anytime anywhere."

"We have to work together in fighting terrorism and these arrests are parts of the fruits of our working together," she told reporters in Cebu City.

Golez said he communicated his statement to the Australian ambassador in Manila.

Terror targets

Potential targets of terror attacks have been identified and secured in the lead up to Oct. 18 visit by US President George W. Bush, officials said.

The fear of attacks by Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian terror network with links to al-Qaida, has prompted one of the heaviest security blankets ever to cover Manila, considered a top US ally in the antiterror campaign.

Lucero said the military was also intensifying efforts to recapture Al-Ghozi, whose July escape with two Abu Sayyaf detainees from a prison cell inside Camp Crame has been an enormous embarrassment to the government.

Soft target

"With Al-Ghozi on the loose, we presume that he has already contacted some of his companions outside the Philippines so we're very much concerned about the movements of the JI here in the Philippines," he said.

The military and police had been earlier alerted for possible retaliatory attacks by JI terror cells following Hambali's arrest in Thailand in August.

Nothing new

"We have already heightened our concern on the possibility that the JI will hit again after Hambali was captured in Thailand," Lucero said.

Lucero noted that reports about the JI's plot to carry out bombings in Manila were nothing new, noting that the military received similar reports as early as last year.

"There were (such) reports immediately after Al-Ghozi was arrested (in January 2002)," he said.

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, intelligence director of Philippine National Police, told Reuters that security and intelligence agencies were "constantly assessing the threat scenarios."

"We have been meeting every day to review the situation. It's expected that terrorist elements would follow a high-profile target like President Bush," he said.

Anger as weapon

Security experts say JI also draws on widespread anger against the perceived global oppression of Muslims by the United States.

"It's really driven as much by a virulent anti-Americanism as it is by extremist religiosity," Zachary Abuza, the author of "Militant Islam in Southeast Asia: Crucible of Terror," told AFP.

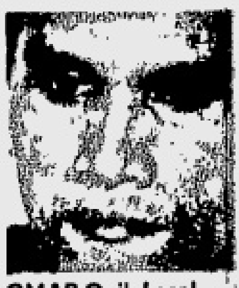
But although it has been weakened by the recent arrests of some of its senior operatives and with at least 200 accused JI members in regional jails, Abuza said the organization retained the capacity to carry out deadly strikes.

"It's very clear that JI has been recruiting and it's also very clear that JI has no shortage of recruits," Abuza said.

He warned that JI still had the capacity to carry out strikes with many leaders, such as bomb-making experts Azahari Husin and Al-Ghozi, as well as technician Dulmatin, still free.

"The organization is down but it's not out," Abuza said. *With reports from AFP, Reuters, AP; Gerald Lacuarta*

AFP: Al-Ghozi days numbered after Lasal capture



OMAR Opik Lasal

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

THE RECAPTURE of Omar Opik Lasal, alias Merang Abante, could soon lead to the arrest of the country's most famous escapee, military officials said yesterday.

Lasal was recaptured in Barangay Camanga, Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur on Wednesday night—raising hopes that the recapture of the Indonesian bomb-maker Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi was not far behind.

An officer of the Army's 1st Infantry Division said the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist was now "contained" in the Zamboanga peninsula area and was last spotted in Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur.

Main target

"Lasal was used as a tracer to locate the main target," the source, who requested anonymity, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Now that the military has announced that he has been arrested, it means that Al-Ghozi would be captured soon."

Lasal was presented to media at the Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga City yesterday morning.

SouthCom chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko said they hope Lasal would "cooperate and tell everything, not only on how he escaped but as well as other things which can help solve the peace and order problem in our area."

"We'll take hold of him, complete the tactical interrogation and find out what happened and where Al-Ghozi is," Kyamko said.

Still, police and military authorities could not say if Lasal's arrest would eventually lead to the recapture of Al-Ghozi.

"It will depend on how Lasal cooperates. If not, we cannot force him," Kyamko added.

But in Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the AFP's chief information officer, said military officials were confident that Lasal would lead the authorities to Al-Ghozi.

"We are hoping that Merang will cooperate effectively and be able to divulge some valid revelations. So hopefully the recapture of Al-Ghozi will also be dependent on the quality of revelations and statements to be given by Merang," he said.

Free hand

Supt. Reynaldo Varilla, police chief for Western Mindanao, said he was giving the military a freehand to conduct tactical interrogation on Lasal and extract information that could possibly lead to the whereabouts of Al-Ghozi.

Varilla said Lasal was captured on board a passenger van on his way to Pagadian City en route to Lanao from Dinas town. Lasal was arrested with a companion, Muktar Sali.

"Although we did not get Al-Ghozi, we got Lasal and he might be the key to Al-Ghozi's eventual arrest," Varilla said.

Varilla said they were still trying to ascertain if Sali is a member of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Col. Roland Rodriguez, chief of Task Force Tabak which implemented Oplan Deep South that led to Lasal's arrest, said "an asset from the lawless elements formerly identified with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF)" helped in locating Lasal.

The asset, Rodriguez said, had "regular communication with Lasal."

He added that with the help of the asset, Lasal's movement was monitored, including his arrival in Barangay Binuhatan in Dinas town on Oct. 4.

"We immediately launched the Oplan Deep South, utilizing more than a battalion ... of troops (after confirming Lasal's presence in Dinas town)," Rodriguez said.

With Lasal's arrest, Rodriguez believes Al-Ghozi's mobility would be severely affected "because we discovered that Lasal was his guide and point person who arranged every location and probable safe places for him."

"(Without Lasal,) Al-Ghozi's movement is limited and he would have to content with his close in guide or security that would later sell him to the authorities in exchange for money," he added.

Military asset?

The 1ID source said Lasal, like Edris, the other Abu Sayyaf detainee who escaped last July, was an "asset" of the military, during operations against the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

The source said Lasal and Edris had no intention of escaping but were merely bribed by Al-Ghozi into accompanying him to an Indonesian camp located at the heart of a Moro Islamic Liberation Front territory in Mindanao.

The official said the military was later told by Edris during interrogation that Al-Ghozi had a huge amount of money "sewn" in two secret pockets of his bag during the escape.

The source could not tell how the money reached Al-Ghozi at Camp Crame and who gave it to him.

He said the three fugitives used the money to finance their trip from Camp Crame to Matnog, Sorsogon, and later to Cagayan de Oro.

From Cagayan de Oro, Edris returned to his former handler in the military, according to the source, who said he personally saw Edris and the handler at the Pulakan headquarters last Aug. 6.

Edris was killed in an alleged shootout with the military the following day.

The source said Lasal was the one who escorted Al-Ghozi to the MILF camp in Lanao del Sur. *With reports from Christian Esguerra, TJ Burgonio; Julie Alipala, Hernan dela Cruz, Rosa-May de Guzman, Nash Maulana and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Reuters, AFP*

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Diplomat, 8 Iraqis killed in Baghdad attacks

BAGHDAD—Twin attacks in Baghdad killed a Spanish diplomat and at least eight Iraqis on Thursday, exactly half a year since US troops occupied the city.

A suicide car bomber crashed through the gates of a police station, killing at least three policemen and five civilians and wounding scores in the blast, Iraqi police said.

"It was definitely a suicide bomb," one policeman said at the scene. "We found the head of the attacker. It had been blown off his body. He was bearded, and his body was charred."

In another part of town, Jose Antonio Bernal, a Spanish Air Force sergeant attached to the embassy, was gunned down as he left his home. Spain, which backed the US-led war, has around 1,300 troops in Iraq.

Occupation forces and diplomats in Baghdad have become targets of what the Americans consider elements loyal to ousted President Saddam Hussein, who is still on the run.

The instability has prompted the United States to ask for outside help in calming Iraq, but has made other key countries—many of whom opposed the war—even more reluctant.

German sources said Berlin wanted a key donor conference on Iraq delayed. Diplomats said Britain was trying to salvage a UN resolution aimed to winning more support over Iraq, but the United States seemed on the brink of abandoning it.

The United Nations has been pulling out staff since its headquarters was twice hit by suicide bombs, the first of which killed 22 people in August including a top UN diplomat, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

Thursday's attack on a police station in a poor district once known as Saddam City is the bloodiest since then, and another setback for US President George Bush's hopes of building a stable, democratic and US-friendly Iraq.

Bush's forces won the war in three weeks, taking central Baghdad on April 9 and symbolically helping topple a statue of Saddam, but have struggled ever since to restore order and basic services.

US officials have been trying to get an Iraqi police force running but its members have been targeted several times.

"A car sped up and slammed into other cars, and there was a large explosion," a wounded policeman said of Thursday's attack.

A police spokesperson said hundreds of people had been in the building waiting to receive salaries, and three to five Iraqi policemen had been reported killed.

"The car was very, very fast, and the security guards at the main gate tried to stop the car. They opened fire," he said.

US troops have been the main target of guerrilla attacks and since May 1, when Bush declared major hostilities over, over 90 US soldiers have died.

Washington is now asking other nations for troops and money to help rebuild Iraq but has received a half-hearted response. Many countries opposed the war in the first place.

Amid signs Bush may abandon efforts to secure a new UN resolution meant to secure more international help, diplomats said ally Britain was pushing for amendments to salvage it.

Britain, a co-sponsor, would consider accelerating Iraqi sovereignty, even before elections were held, without giving a specific time frame, diplomats said. This would please doubters but whether Washington would agree is doubtful. *Reuters*

IRAQIS walk through the blast area after an explosion outside a police station in the Baghdad suburb of Al Sadr on Oct. 9. AP

Putin reserves right to preventive attacks

YEKATERINBURG, Russia—President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia opposes the use of preventive military attacks but will reserve the right to carry out such strikes if the practice continues to be used by other countries.

Speaking during meetings between Russian and German leaders in the city of Yekaterinburg, Putin said that "if the practice of preventive strikes is de facto broadened and strengthened in the world, then Russia reserves for itself the right to such actions."

"We are against this, but we reserve the right to deliver preventive strikes," the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying in a clear jab at the US, which attacked Iraq despite opposition from Russia and other UN Security Council members.

Putin's comment also echoed Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov's statement last week that Russia would not rule out the preventive use of force if its interests or alliance obligations demanded it.

The comments reflect Russian concern about the military clout of the United States, which was left as the world's sole superpower following the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. *AP*

House body OKs sanctions against Syria

WASHINGTON—A House committee voted to impose weapons sanctions and other penalties on Syria after fresh allegations that the country sponsors terrorists.

"The time has come to hold Syria accountable for its actions," said Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a Florida Republican, as the House international relations committee on Wednesday approved sanctions legislation.

The United States considers Syria a state sponsor of terrorism, and officials are concerned it may be allowing activists to cross into Iraq to take up arms against US soldiers.

"It has become increasingly clear which side Syria's government has chosen in the war on terror," House Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas said.

The legislation, approved 33-2, bans the export of weapons and items that can be used in weapons programs into Syria. *AP*

Factional fighting leaves 80 dead in Afghanistan

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan—Clashes between Afghanistan's northern warlords have left nearly 80 militiamen dead and wounded, the warring camps said Thursday, as fighting entered its second day just weeks ahead of an ambitious drive to disarm factions nominally loyal to the central government.

Battles between militias loyal to Tajik Gen. Atta Mohammad and his rival Uzbek Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostam broke out Wednesday 60 km west of the main northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

As fighting moved east and threatened to enter the city, both sides moved tanks to their frontlines.

"From (Wednesday) night up to now we have more than 70 soldiers killed and injured," Mohammad's deputy, Gen. Abdul Sabor, said.

Dostam's deputy, Sayed Nurullah, said three of his fighters had been killed and six wounded.

The fighters were using light and heavy weapons, Nurullah said.

Fighting Thursday was on the outskirts of Balkh, 20 km of west of Mazar-i-Sharif, the deputies said.

"Fighting is still continuing in Balkh district," Sabor said.

Tanks were deployed to guard Mazar-i-Sharif overnight, the city police chief, Gen. Isa Iftikhary said amid fears the fighting would move into the city.

US military spokesperson Maj. Richard Sater said US-led coalition forces would take steps to help control the fighting "if required."

"The fighting is in an area where we have a provincial reconstruction team; yes, it affects us, it has impact on what we are doing. If required we will take steps to put the situation under control," Sater said.

Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali arrived in Mazar-i-Sharif on Thursday to try to defuse the tensions.

"There is a big problem in the north of the country. Around the city of Mazar-i-Sharif the situation is quite tense now," he told reporters before departing Kabul.

On arrival, Jalali visited Mazar-i-Sharif's British-run civil-military provisional reconstruction team helping with reconstruction and security.

Mohammad heads the mainly Tajik Jamiat faction and Dostam, a former communist general who is also a deputy defense minister, heads the mainly Uzbek Junbish group.

They have been vying for control of northern Afghanistan along with a third ethnic militia, the Hazaras' Hezb-i Wahdat.

Dozens of people have been killed this year in factional clashes, one of the biggest headaches for President Hamid Karzai's administration in Kabul.

Two years after US-led forces began destroying the Taliban regime, Afghanistan's provinces are choked with violence between rival factions and by resurgent Taliban fighters.

Attacks blamed on the Taliban, their allies from the al-Qaida and loyalists of renegade Islamist leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in the insurgency-wracked southeast have claimed 300 lives in the past two months. *AFP*

Now comes the hard part for Schwarzenegger

LOS ANGELES—Governor-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger said he expects a seamless move into his new office, naming a congressman to head his transition team after fielding calls from President George W. Bush, Nelson Mandela and other well-wishing luminaries.

Next comes the hard part: making good on a long list of campaign-trail promises to restore the California dream.

Schwarzenegger's plans to attract jobs, revive a troubled economy and erase a massive deficit will have to go through a Legislature controlled by Democrats angered by the recall process some called a hostile takeover.

But Schwarzenegger expressed confidence that California lawmakers would get the message voters delivered in Tuesday night's election.

"The legislators up there have gotten this message last night, that the people of California want change," he said Wednesday.

The action hero's first press conference on Wednesday, a day after he snatched away Gov. Gray Davis' job, yielded few new specifics about how he plans to fix California's ills.

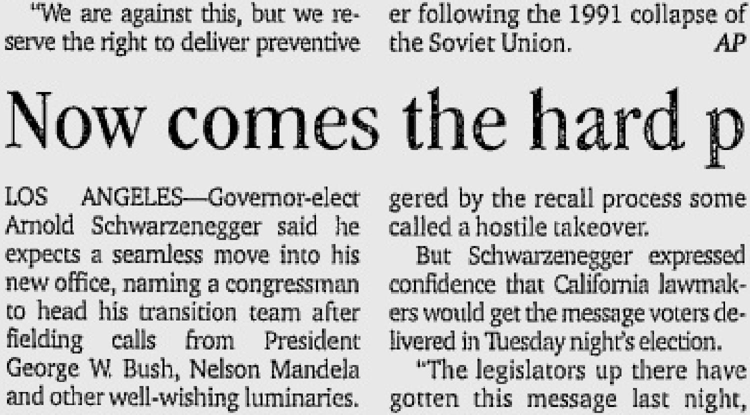
He reiterated plans for an independent audit of the state's books before revealing program cuts, pledged to repeal the recent tripling of the car tax, said he'd work with Indian tribes to negotiate more casino revenues and promised again not to raise taxes.

More specifics were likely to emerge on Thursday, when he was set to hold a joint press conference in Santa Monica with Rep. David Dreier, chair of his transition team, to announce its other members.

Schwarzenegger's toughest and first challenge is an $8-billion budget deficit, which will grow by another $4 billion if the car tax hike is repealed. Schwarzenegger also has said he will not cut education spending, and much of California's budget is committed to specific programs by law, leaving the new governor potentially little room to maneuver.

"In the very near future, I will be announcing what I will do," he said.

Democrats were quick to offer support. Schwarzenegger spoke Wednesday with Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, state Senate Leader John Burton and state Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson. All promised to work with the new governor, who will be sworn in by mid-November, while urging him to get to work on his programs. *AP*



JAPAN PLASTIC DREAMS
Risa Arato is shown before (left photo) and after her cosmetic surgery. Facing less social stigma and encouraged by new no-scalpel procedures, more Japanese women than ever before are walking into cosmetic surgery clinics and walking out with rounder eyes, bigger noses and fewer wrinkles. AP

Danes say Australian perfect to be queen

COPENHAGEN, Denmark—The engagement between Australian commoner Mary Donaldson and Crown Prince Frederik was front page news across Denmark Thursday with newspapers and tabloids calling her the perfect choice for a possible queen-to-be.

But, at the same time, they warned that intensive media attention and speculation could turn the fairy tale into a nightmare.

"Let us say it immediately: she passed the exam," tabloid Ekstra Bladet said in an editorial.

The couple were engaged Wednesday and the 31-year-old brunette from Hobart, Tasmania, made her first public appearance with Frederik, 35, on the balcony of a downtown Copenhagen palace. The royal wedding has been scheduled for May 14 at Copenhagen's Lutheran neoclassical cathedral, Our Lady's Church.

Photos of the couple were splashed across newspapers in the Scandinavian country of 5.3 million.

"You're born for this, Mary," tabloid B.T. read. "Allow us to say: wow!(...) You took our breath away."

Denmark's largest broadsheet, Jyllands-Posten, touted Donaldson's poise and confidence, adding that "she showed a princess talent, which looks promising for the future." *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

54 die in Indonesia bus accident

JAKARTA—Police on Thursday were searching for a truck driver blamed for causing a fiery crash that left 54 people dead, most of them high school girls on their way home from trip to Bali. The crash—one of Indonesia's worst road accidents this year—turned the small hospital in the town of Situbondo into a makeshift morgue and left the girl's hometown of Sleman near Yogyakarta in a state of shock. Weeping students filled the hallways of Yapemda Special High School in Sleman, about 450 km east of Jakarta. Some parents collapsed in grief as word spread of the bus tragedy and a waiting crowd saw only two of three buses return home from the trip. *AP*

China spacecraft to orbit Earth 14 times

SHANGHAI—Chinese astronauts are in the final stages of preparing for a manned space mission that will orbit the globe 14 times before returning to Earth, a state-run newspaper reported Thursday. The launch, expected sometime this month, will initially send a manned craft, the Shenzhou 5, into an oval orbit that at its closest will be 200 km from Earth, the Liberation Daily reported, citing "relevant channels." *AP*

Blind Thais go to the movies

BANGKOK—Munching popcorn and sipping soda, most of the audience couldn't see the movie, and everybody was talking. "What's happening now?" "What's going on now?" The questions and answers flew back and forth in the darkened cinema. To celebrate World Sight Day on Thursday, 120 members of the Thailand Association of the Blind filed into a theater to watch the newly released Thai-language movie "My Girl." The screening was sponsored by Standard Chartered Bank, which last week asked the organization what it wanted to do for an annual event, and was told that its members wanted to go to the movies—with sighted companions to fill in the gaps. *AP*

Singaporean held for e-mail threats

BANGKOK—Thai police have arrested a Singaporean man threatened by e-mail to assassinate Singapore's Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and bomb two embassies during the Apec summit this month, they said Thursday. Kevin Chia was arrested at his downtown apartment late Wednesday after allegedly sending e-mails threatening the assassination and bombings of the Singaporean and US embassies in Bangkok, police said. *AP*

Conservative leader vows to fight on

BLACKPOOL, England—Dogged by rumors of a plot to oust him and making little impact in opinion polls, the leader of the main opposition Conservative Party said Thursday he "won't allow anything or anyone to get in my way." Ian Duncan Smith insists he will be Britain's next prime minister. *AP*

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American-British duo wins Nobel Prize in economics

STOCKHOLM—Economist Robert Engle of the United States and Clive Granger of Britain won the 2003 Nobel Prize in economics on Wednesday for inventing ways to forecast economic risks for investors and studying how economic activities interact.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said Engle and Granger would share the 10 million crown ($1.3 million) prize "for methods of analyzing economic time series with time-varying volatility" and time series "with common trends," respectively.

Engle, born in 1942 in Syracuse in the state of New York, teaches at New York University's Stern School of Business and got the prize for improving methods of evaluating portfolio risk and asset pricing.

"Investors and financial institutions need forward-looking evaluation—forecasts—of volatility during the next day, week or year. Robert Engle formulated a model which allows such evaluations," the Academy said.

It said Engle's improved methods of measuring the volatility of asset returns helped banks and other financial institutions make sure the value of their assets did not fall below some minimum level that would expose them to insolvency.

"I'm so delighted. It's a wonderful reinforcement of the research that my students and I have been doing these past 20 years," Engle said from a holiday apartment in the French Alps.

"I was very surprised. There were whispers that said it might be possible, but I didn't have any expectations."

GRANGER

ENGLE

Asked how it felt to be sharing the prize with Granger, he said: "I'm delighted to share the prize with him. Clive Granger is an old friend and collaborator. It's nice to be sharing this."

He said he didn't yet know what he would do with the money, but agreed there would be a few glasses of champagne tonight.

"He's thrilled. It's been one of the best days of our lives," his wife said.

Granger, born in 1934 in Wales, is an emeritus professor at the University of California. The academy said his work was used in studying links between wealth and consumption, exchange rates and price levels, and short- and long-term interest rates.

"It still feels like a dream," Granger told Sweden's TT news agency from New Zealand, where the news reached him in the middle of the night.

"Of course there has been speculation that my name could come up, but not in my wildest fantasies did I believe that it would become reality. It feels wonderful." He, too, had not yet decided what he would spend his half of the prize on, TT said.

"Robert Engle and I have worked together for many years. We have developed a model which makes it possible for economic decision-makers to evaluate risks with the help of economic data," he told TT.

Professor John Sutton of the London School of Economics said Granger had been a pioneer in his field.

"He did the key path-breaking work on how we can unravel the direction of causation when we ask questions like 'Does an increase in money supply affect the level of inflation?' or 'Does the rise in the level of inflation lead to higher money supply?'" Sutton said.

The economics award was not among the original prizes for chemistry, physics, literature, medicine and peace founded by the inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel, in his will in 1895.

It was instituted by Sweden's central bank as the "Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel" in 1968 and first awarded in 1969. *Reuters*

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Bangladesh, most corrupt nation, fires 302 cops

DHAKA—Bangladesh, named this week as the world's most corrupt nation, has forced 302 police officers into early retirement amid reported allegations of links with criminals against them, an official said Thursday.

The home ministry official, who would not be named, said the officers were forced into early retirement early this week but denied the action was related to a report by Transparency International that named Bangladesh as the nation with the most perceived public sector corruption for the third straight year.

The Daily Star newspaper reported there were allegations of corruption and "maintaining cozy links with criminals" against the 302 officers ranging from constables to inspectors.

The index released Tuesday in Berlin highlights corruption among public officials and politicians as perceived by business leaders, academics and risk analysts.

There has been no formal government statement on the report so far, but it was dismissed outright by outspoken Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

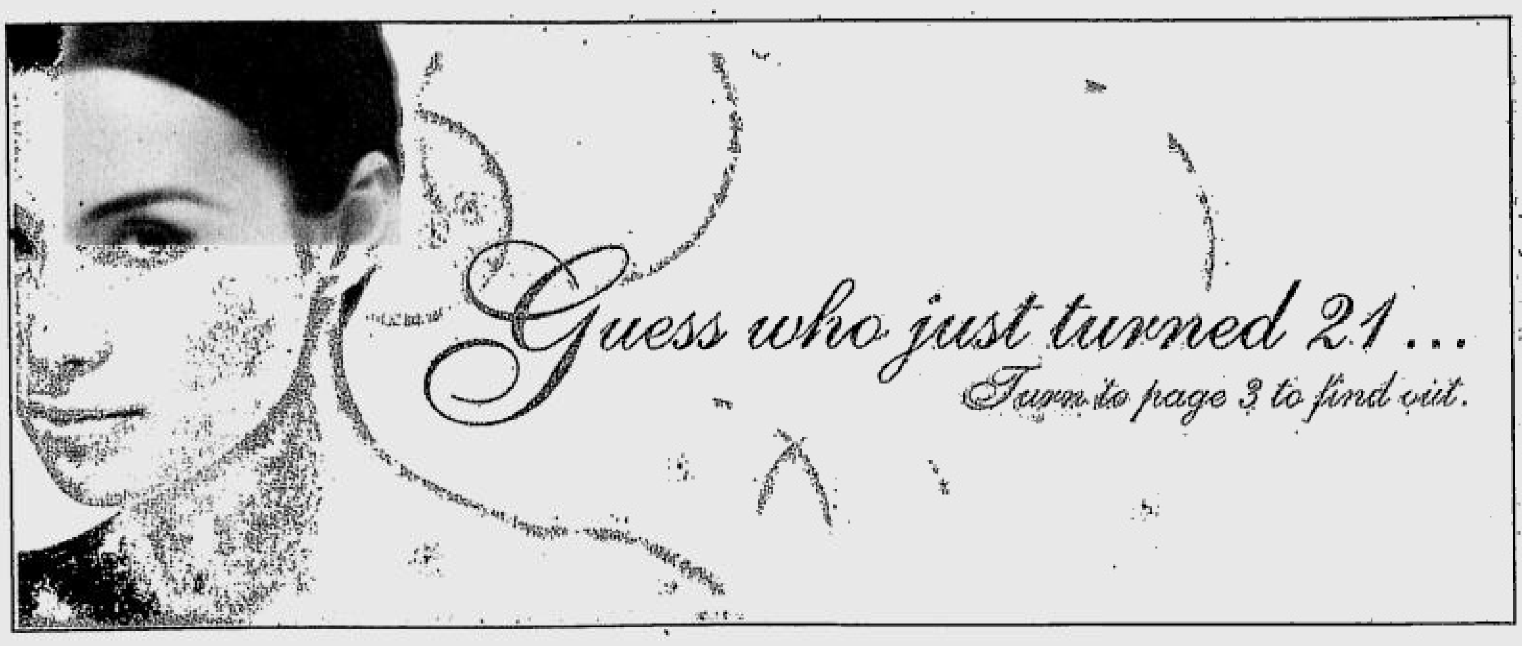
"It is not correct to condemn a nation on the basis of some unproven allegations reported by newspapers and the general impressions of some people," Rahman was quoted as saying by the Daily Star.

Rahman did say, however, that the government would look into it.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed, Prime Minister Khaled Zia's archrival, used the TI report to justify her claims that the Islamist-allied government was involved in widespread corruption.

"How can countrymen expect something good from this government which established a rule of corruption, violence and nepotism?" she was quoted as saying in Dhaka on Wednesday.

Sheikh Hasina held power from 1996 to 2001 when the TI first listed Bangladesh as the most corrupt nation. *AFP*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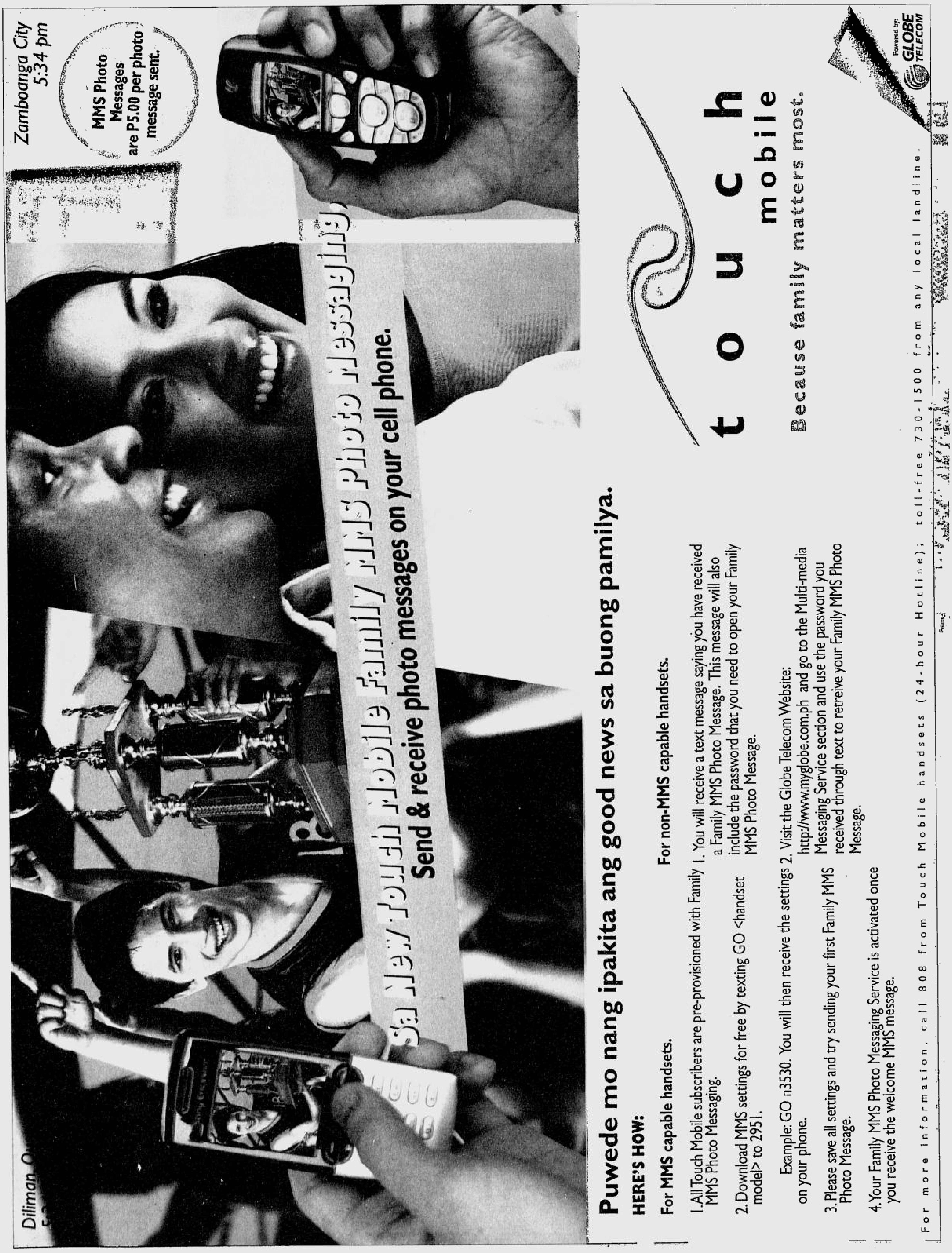
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Disappearing act

EDITORIAL

FOR how long does Sen. Panfilo Lacson intend to sustain this new disappearing act? He can't shy from public view forever, banking on a semblance of visibility by virtue of statements issued by his handlers and speeches read by his friends. Or dependent on bodyguards and constantly running the risk that someone will do the unthinkable and sell him out. Even his worthy colleagues in the Senate opposition bloc are urging him to do the right thing—that is, come out from wherever he is hiding and do battle in the legal arena.

It might occur to Lacson that his lengthening absence as a result of the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case is unseemly for a senator of the realm who is sworn to uphold the law and whose official existence is supported by public funds. Is this any way for a declared aspirant to the presidency to behave? But he appears bent on emulating his colleague Sen. Gregorio Honasan, an expert in disappearing acts, apart from mounting coup attempts, the sort that all but destroy the economy. (True enough, Honasan—whose own reaction to the coup d'etat charge filed against him in connection with the failed mutiny of July 27 was to make himself, in his word, "inaccessible"—now says that Lacson is merely "exercising his prerogatives in light of developments in the judiciary." How odd. Honasan, himself ogling the top post in the land, is in effect saying that evading due process is a government official's, indeed a senator's, prerogative.)

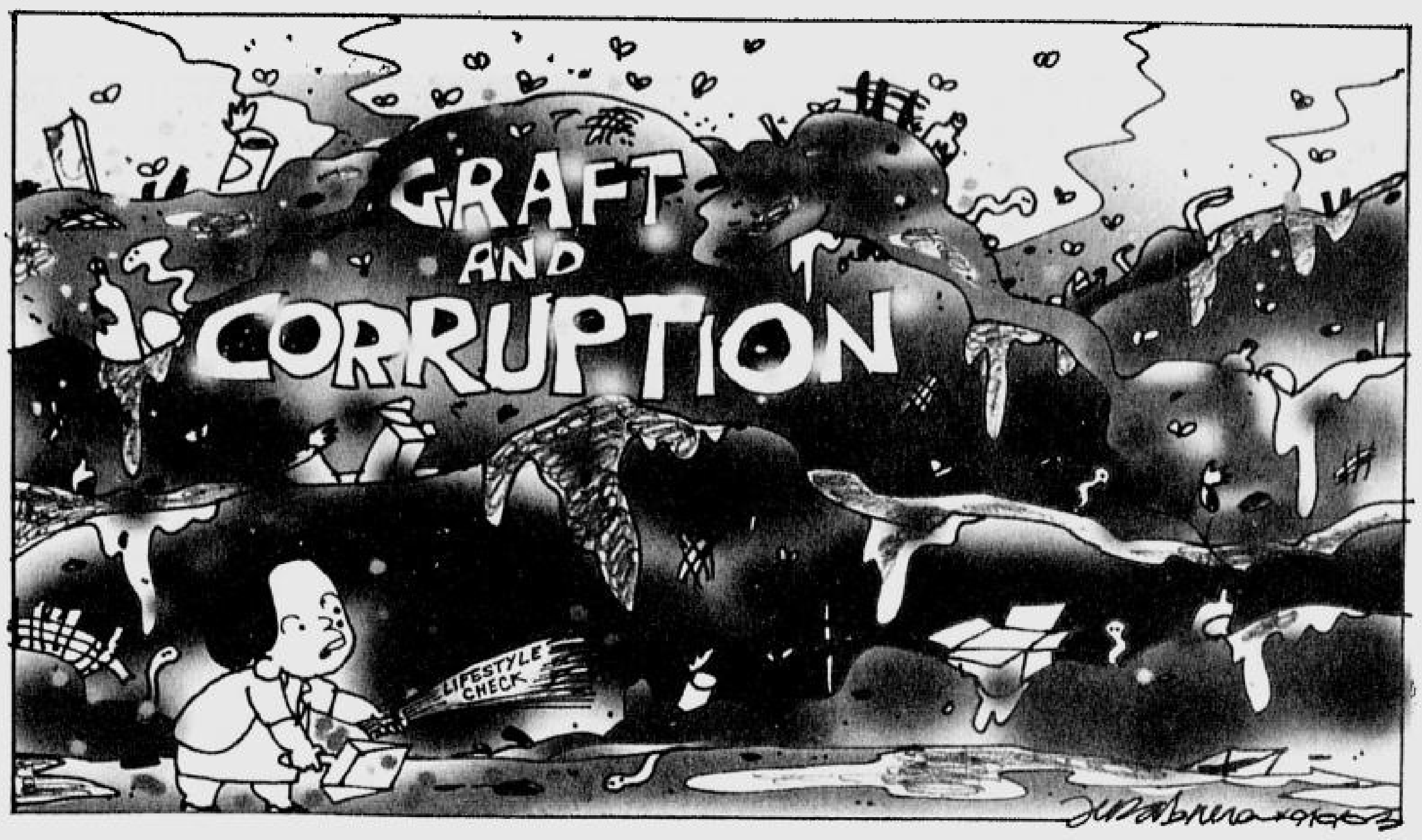
If it is true, as Lacson himself said, that the administration's legal tactics and "the Supreme Court's harassment" have succeeded in sidelining him from his "crusade against corruption," he should consider how lofty he would appear in the public eye if he damns the torpedoes and proceeds full speed ahead in furtherance of that mission. He has, of course, announced that he would, in yet another privilege speech, implicate President Macapagal-Arroyo in the alleged corruption of her husband. But what good is that until it ascends from the level of a threat to that of a fait accompli? And will he have the evidence to prove his steamy disclosures this time?

More importantly, will the supposed corruption of the First Couple allow him to literally get away with 11 counts of murder?

Lacson appears not to understand, or is ignoring, a fundamental point: In the scheme of things, one's motives are not as important as one's decisions or actions. One can profess to be a "Mr. Clean" moved by the mission to put order in disorder, but one cannot back off and slip into the woodwork when the crunch comes. For one example, if he once rose on a question of privilege and called Jose Miguel Arroyo a money launderer, he was, if nothing else, morally obliged to stay the course and not fly off and cool his heels overseas while his annoyed fellows tried to hold the fort. For another, if he has availed himself of legal remedies all these years since the corpses of the 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng were found piled one on top of the other like so many slabs of meat, he has to abide by the same judicial system that received and acted on his lawyers' moves and counter-moves.

Lacson is being badly served by his handlers if it is they who are encouraging him to stay "underground," a word Senate President Franklin Drilon was loath to use in the course of saying that Lacson's continued absence from the session hall was giving the "wrong impression." (Indeed, in the martial law years, the underground was where the brutal young men of the Marcos *apparat* hunted down activists.) Lacson's handlers are not earning their keep if it is they who are sustaining the image that he has once again switched to retreat mode. And they are numerous, most of them hardly novices in the mercurial, macho world of politics, having been, or are still, part of the retinue of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Then again, as lawyer Sigfrid Fortun said by way of pointing out that his client is not in hiding, the senator is only in Metro Manila. But whether near or far, above- or underground, it will not do for a declared contender to the presidency to be marked, in the stringent measure of public perception, by a diminution of nerve.



Get rid of stray dogs the right way

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT was Animal Rights Day a few days ago, but except for some dog owners and their pedigreed pets getting together and a few stories published in the newspapers, the day passed with very few people realizing that animals, too, have rights. In fact, every day should be animal rights day, not only once a year. Ironically, pet owners who claim they love their pets and who really think they love them, forget to treat their pets like people who truly love them should. Many people genuinely love animals, particularly their pets, but sometimes don't know the proper way to do it. Or sometimes forget to pay attention to the needs of the animals. Or usually leave their care to the househelp who don't know any better.

People forget that like humans, animals should be examined by veterinarians, should be given vaccinations that would protect them from diseases, get proper nutrition, spoken to just like children and old people, touched and scratched and patted and have toys just like children. Animals, too, have emotions and needs. They, too, need to exercise their brains, something many humans forget to do. And like children, they shouldn't be left alone in the streets where they run the risk of accidents.

There are laws that say dogs shouldn't be let out of the yard unless on a leash, should have dog licenses and identification tags, but people who obey these rules are the exception rather than the rule. Go to any neighborhood and you will see dogs out in the streets, sometimes running after passing vehicles. It is often risky to walk in these neighborhoods because the dogs can sneak behind and bite you. These neighborhoods include first-class villages with well-to-do and supposedly educated, intelligent, sensible and responsible people.

Aside from companionship, most people keep dogs to guard their homes. But how can the dogs guard the homes when they are let out of the yards, often at night when burglars are most likely to strike? Out in the streets, dogs and cats are in danger of being run over by vehicles, of being attacked by other dogs, of getting diseases and parasites, of being poisoned or of even being stolen either by the neighborhood drunkards who cook them for *pulutan*, or by professional dog stealers who sell them to those who like to eat dog meat in the belief that it is an aphrodisiac or, as in the Cordilleras, helps keep the body warm during the cold season.

There is a law, the Animal Welfare Act, that prohibits the selling, butchering and eating of dogs and cats. It also prohibits dogfights and horsefights, though not cockfights. But dogs, mostly stolen from irresponsible owners, are still taken up to the Cordilleras trussed up and packed like sardines in cages where they are sold, butchered, cooked and sold as *azucena*—all openly and in violation of the law. Dogfights are held in neighborhoods, including the supposedly "classy" ones, where status-seekers keep pit bulls precisely for dogfighting. In parts of Mindanao, horsefighting is held during fiestas, watched by thousands of people in broad daylight, also in violation of the law. Policemen, mayors and other government officials watch these horsefights but nobody arrests the violators or even stops them from committing the crime.

In some cities and municipalities, like Quezon City for one, it is illegal to let dogs roam the streets and barangays are ordered to catch stray dogs. Homeowners' associations try to keep their neighborhoods free of stray dogs by making their security guards catch the dogs, fine the owners before returning the dogs to them. If the owners don't retrieve their dogs, they are turned over to the barangay or the city pound. And here is where the cruelty, irresponsibility and mindlessness begin.

The barangays turn the dogs to the city pound or usually sell them to dog merchants or to the neighborhood drunkards who kill the animals, almost always by cruelly clubbing them on the head, and butchering them for *pulutan*. At the city pound, the dogs are gassed to death in the same manner that Hitler gassed the Jews during World War II. What did the dogs do to deserve this cruelty? Nothing except have irresponsible owners. It is the fault of the owners that the dogs were out in the streets. But it is the dogs that are punished—they pay with their lives—while the owners are rewarded by getting the animals out of their hands. In fact, some despicable owners who no longer want their dogs, purposely turn them out in the streets so that the dog catchers will catch them and relieve them of the burden of caring for them. These are the ones who should be punished, not the innocent dogs.

But that is what is happening in most villages. Thoughtless residents and their even more thoughtless leaders in the barangays and the homeowners' associations are violating decency, laws made by Man, and the Law made by God, by regularly being cruel to animals and violating their rights.

Most of these people are not naturally cruel; they are just thoughtless. They don't think of the rights, the feelings, the welfare, nor the lives of the animals. Their minds are focused only on solving the problem: stray dogs.

But killing them won't solve the problem. Teaching the humans who own them will. You want to teach your constituents the right thing to do? Contact the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS); they will be happy to help. You can call PAWS at Tel. No. 475-1688.

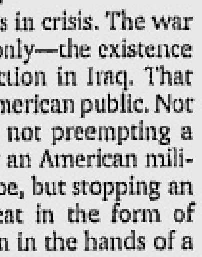
* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: *Bakit* Chinese *ang madalas ma*-kidnap?

Chinese: *Kasi pak* Pinoy, three gives; *pak Bombay*, 5-6; *pak Amelikano cledit cald; pelo pag*-Chinese, *sigulado* COD.

Lying

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

I SAW Scott Ritter being interviewed in "Hard Talk" last Monday. He was emphatic about his position. Ritter, an ex-Marine, was the United Nations' top weapons inspector in Iraq until 1998. He was adamant that Saddam Hussein did not have weapons of mass destruction at the time George Bush went to war against him. He was among the bitterest critics of that war. The United States, he said at BBC, had lost the war in Iraq.

First, it had lost the war militarily. By the avowal of the American military officials in Iraq themselves, the country could not be held by an occupation force. As a result of the suicide attacks, US troops have become demoralized, vulnerable and paranoid. The war did not end with the routing of Saddam's forces in March, it just began. Now the war was taking its toll on America. It was clear America would not win that war.

It would not do so because the occupation was illegitimate. It had no UN sanction, it had no universal acclaim. The fact was emphasized by the pullout of the UN forces there in the wake of the suicide attacks and by the refusal of other countries to participate in pacifying, the real word for rebuilding, Iraq. (Except for the Philippines.)

Second, Ritter said, the United States had lost the war economically. The American economy was hemorrhaging, and the American public wasn't going to take it lying down, as indicated by Bush's falling ratings. Why should the taxpayers want to shell out another $85 billion, which Bush wants them to do, when they cannot find jobs (unemployment is the highest in 10 years) and have fewer unemployment, health and welfare benefits? Rebuilding another country halfway across the world cannot be first on their wish list in those circumstances. The American public may have discovered the bitter truth through an empty stomach, but they have discovered it anyway and are up in arms.

Thirdly, the United States had lost the war morally.

Abroad, the United States had frittered away the goodwill it got during 9/11 and its image has been tarnished everywhere. The country has been isolated globally, and Americans have become objects of scorn in many places. "Call it domination, call it hegemony, call it imperialism," that is how the world now sees the American agenda. That is the reason the Iraq occupation is doomed to fail. "Show me any illegal occupation in history that won against a popular resistance."

At home, the presidency is in crisis. The war was premised on one thing only—the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. That was how it was sold to the American public. Not rebuilding another country, not preempting a future threat, not projecting an American military presence across the globe, but stopping an immediate and urgent threat in the form of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of a madman. To this day, not a single weapon of mass destruction has been found.

Clearly, the president has lied to the country, Ritter said. And as the patriotic, or jingoist fervor, fades in the horizon—pushed back by the rising costs of the war—Americans have begun to rediscover their feistiness and protest it. Bush is not going to stay in power for very long.

Well, I myself said some months ago I could not understand why nobody has brought impeachment charges against him. Richard Nixon's offense in the early 1970s was a far more minor one, lying about the break-in into the Democrat headquarters in Watergate. Bush's is infinitely the more epic, lying about the reasons for going to war with another country. At the time I said this, it was evident Bush had weeded out the chaff from the grain, manufacturing evidence about the weapons of mass destruction and massively destroying proof of their non-existence. Since then, more and more evidence about how systematically he (and his neo-conservative pals) did it has piled up.

That is the context in which to see the coming Bush visit. Doubtless, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will try to milk it dry, extracting from it the meaning that it is an endorsement of her candidacy. But even if Bush were to explicitly give it, it will be given by someone who is not likely to be in the White House after November next year. Indeed, by someone who is likely to be an object of derision at home and abroad, if not an object of litigation. Someone who will always be associated with lying, the most elemental betrayal of the public trust.

Moreover, if such an explicit endorsement were given, it will be given to someone who herself is experiencing a monumental crisis in credibility. GMA's biggest problem is moral as well: like Bush, she has lied to the public. She has lied to the public not just about the war in Iraq, not just about the "war against terror," and not just about the war in Muslim Mindanao, but about the war against dishonesty in power.

She said she would not run again because that would divide the country. Yet she is running just the same.

Ironically, GMA succeeded a president who was also impeached and who more than anybody else blurred the difference between illusion and reality, between the movies and life, between life and truth. But Erap's lie was for the most part the mythical kind, the superimposition of a fantasy on the sensate world. GMA's is the more practical and deliberate kind, a willful distortion of the state of the world, of Muslim Mindanao and of the country itself. More than that, it is a willful deception of the public about her true intentions about power. She means to cling to it whatever the cost.

When GMA and Bush meet next week, they will talk about the way life is and the way it can be. They will join hands and promise a better future for everyone. Having made lying the defining characteristic of their rule, however, the question is:

Who will believe them?

The stuff of suspicions

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S decision lifting the government's sequestration order on 20 percent of the shares of San Miguel Corp. claimed by its chair, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr., could mark the defining moment of whether or not he will decide to make a bid for president in the 2004 elections.

The lifting of the freeze order is a setback for the government's 17-year efforts to recover assets allegedly illegally extracted by former President Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies. It in effect returns to Cojuangco control of the shares that comprise a portion of the 52 percent stake the government seized after Cojuangco fled the country following the overthrow of Marcos in 1986.

While the court's resolution declared the sequestration order "null and void" on the procedural grounds that the order was signed by only one member of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, breaching the rule that the order required the signatures of at least two commissioners, it also held that the sequestration writs had no basis in evidence justifying the seizure. The court said that Cojuangco could not dispose of the 20 percent until the legal issues on ownership of the shares were resolved by the Sandiganbayan, and qualified the decision, saying that if he insisted on the "sale, mortgage or other (manners of) disposition" of the 20 percent, the proceeds should be placed in escrow with the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Despite these restrictions, Cojuangco's retention of control of the shares puts in his hands a powerful economic weapon to exert leverage in the political alignments for the 2004 presidential elections. Pending the resolution of the issues, which foreshadow a long-drawn legal battle reaching up to the Supreme Court, the political significance of the lifting of the sequestration in defining political alliances was not lost on the political class.

The order was handed down on Sept. 17, weeks ahead of the decision by President Macapagal-Arroyo last Oct. 4. It came in the midst of speculations that the President explored possibilities to seek not only Cojuangco's support in the presidential race and but also his abstention from entering the contest as a possible standard-bearer of the opposition whose unity is being promoted by Sen. Edgardo Angara.

The order prompted the President's ally in the Senate, Sen. Joker Arroyo, to ask the question whether the President had cut a deal with Cojuangco in order to secure his support and to cripple the opposition which, after she declared she would stand in the elections, has been thrown into disarray over whom to field as their presidential standard-bearer, with Cojuangco having been considered as the potential coalescing pole of the fragmented opposition.

Cojuangco's support is important for the President's chances for winning the elections because, his party, the Nationalist People's Coalition, is the second largest party next to the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats Party, which holds the majority in the House of Representatives, through a coalition with NPC members. With his retention of control of the giant San Miguel Corp., Cojuangco has access to financial resources that can bankroll the administration's presidential campaign, as well as that of the opposition lineup.

The presumption is that if Cojuangco's keeping control of the 20 percent shares in San Miguel were in doubt, the uncertainty would have impelled him to seek the presidency to regain assets that he had lost through the series of sequestration orders. Now that the Sandiganbayan has intervened, it is believed that Cojuangco's prospects of keeping control of the San Miguel shares have been enhanced without his having to go through a round of legally bruising courtroom battles over the allegedly illegal diversion of the coconut funds to finance Cojuangco's takeover of the 20 percent share.

Questions are being raised over whether the Sandiganbayan's resolution was a result of a "trade-off" cut between the President and Cojuangco, with the speculation over a "deal" being fueled by the timing of the decision in the run-up to the presidential elections in which political alignments and permutations of candidates for president and vice president have remained fluid, even though the President's decision to stand for election has the electrifying effect of solidifying the administration party while it has exposed the cleavages and disunity in the opposition camp.

The curious timing of the court's resolution is the stuff that invites suspicion of deal-cutting. It will take time to determine whether the resolution was a consequence of a deal, and if it were so, this conclusion implies that extra-legal considerations were behind the issuance of the resolution whose stated basis has now spawned legal controversies, given that the PCGG is determined to contest the ruling on appeal.

What is immediately clear is that there are two apparent beneficiaries from the resolution. The first is Cojuangco himself, who has enhanced his chances of keeping control of San Miguel Corp. and of playing as a pivotal powerbroker, or kingmaker, even if he does not launch his candidacy for the presidency.

The second is President Macapagal who can only benefit from Cojuangco's support or abstention from the presidential race. The speculation that she might have a hand in the Sandiganbayan's decision is hard to prove. Who gains or loses is a narrow way to assess the political impact of the ruling. The larger view is that the wider public interests have come second place to narrow partisan or even private interests. Should the resolution be upheld in the process of appeal to higher courts, the end loser would be the public and the farmers from whom the levy funds were extracted and who, in the view of the PCGG, should be the beneficiaries of the sequestration.

Political deals are cut for short-term advantages, and if it is true that a deal was cut, it shows that the President is a cynical, shrewd, if not pragmatic, political operator who can grant concessions to ensure her political advantage.

On the Pope's 25th year, his successor is hot topic

FEATURE

Shasta Darlington

VATICAN CITY—Cardinals in red caps will gather at the Vatican next week to celebrate Pope John Paul's 25th anniversary in what many are calling a dress rehearsal for the election of his successor.

Their arrival will bring behind-doors speculation, fueled for months by the 83-year-old Pope's visibly deteriorated health, to fever pitch.

There are no official candidates and cardinals are loathe to talk about the next conclave to select a pope, but many *"vaticanisti,"* the seasoned journalists who cover the Vatican, have already drawn up their short lists.

The Third World in general and Latin America in particular figure high on most lists due to the concentration of Catholics in these regions and the growing view that combating economic inequalities will be the big challenge of the next papacy.

"There is the sense that it would be an extraordinary act of symbolism to elect a Third World pope, it would put a human face on the suffering of the Third World," said John Allen, columnist for the National Catholic Reporter and author of "Conclave." Vatican watchers say it would be comparable to the election of Poland's Karol Wojtyla in 1978 when one of the Church's main challenges was combating communism.

Two of Allen's top choices are Latin American—Brazil's Claudio Hummes, an outspoken defender of workers and peasants, and Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras, a media-wise rising star in the Church who has made demands for social justice his mantra. Both hold traditional doctrinal views.

Hummes, 69, is considered a unifying force within the Church with pastoral experience in the world's biggest Catholic country as archbishop of Sao Paulo. Rodriguez Maradiaga, 60, is the charismatic archbishop of Tegucigalpa.

But Latin America doesn't hold the monopoly on "papabile"—the front-runners in the unofficial race to become the next leader of the world's one billion Roman Catholics.

Issues like decentralizing power could also play a key in electing a successor after 25 years with the widely revered but often overpowering Pope John Paul.

"One of the quiet criticisms you'll get from cardinals is that John Paul's pontificate has been marked too much by his personality, too dominating," Allen said.

A behind-the-scenes administrator could be just the ticket, according to some experts, which would favor an Italian candidate since they have the most experience running the Vatican and Roman curia.

Dionigi Tettamanzi, 69, the plump and affable head of one of the world's biggest archdioceses in Milan, is at the top of the list of Italians. Online bookmaker www.paddypower.com has the tightest odds on him.

His main drawback is simply that many outside Italy may not want to see the Church back in the hands of the Italians.

"The problem is that the ideal candidate doesn't exist," said a veteran Vatican journalist who asked not to be named.

After the Pope creates 31 new cardinals on Oct. 21, 135 cardinals will be under 80 and therefore eligible to vote in the next secret conclave in the Sistine Chapel for a papal successor. They are also technically all candidates.

With such a huge number of possibilities, the coming anniversary celebrations take on even greater significance because they will allow cardinals who often barely know each other to sound out their colleagues on important issues.

Views on Islam and inter-religious dialogue, for example, are gaining importance.

"People are going to talk about what they think is the main challenge facing the Church in the next quarter century," the veteran Vatican journalist said. "Is it relations with Islam?

Then the next pope may very well be Arinze. Francis Arinze, 70 years old and born in Nigeria, ran the Vatican department on inter-religious dialogue for many years and if elected would be the first black pope.

One thing the next pope almost certainly will not be is American, despite the size of the US Catholic community and its financial clout.

"It has nothing to do with the personal qualities of the American candidates," Allen said. "But it is unthinkable that they would elect a superpower pope, the Vatican prizes its diplomatic independence too much." Age could also help narrow the field, since virtually nobody wants another 25- to 30-year papacy.

Other top names include Brussels Archbishop Godfried Danneels, Christoph Schoenborn, the young archbishop of Vienna, and Vatican insider Dario Castrillon Hoyos, who also has geography on his side as he is from Colombia.

But as many *vaticanisti* like to point out, Pope John Paul has already outlived more than a few former front-runners.

"It's entirely possible that the next pope is among the new batch the Pope is making on Oct. 21," one expert said.

Reuters

Rizal the medicine man

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

HINDSIGHT is one of the things a good historian tries to avoid when dealing with the past. Unfortunately, there is no way a historian can shut out the present. This becomes a bit tricky when confronted by people who have already made up their minds about a historical event or person and use the present to dish the past.

People pontificating on the Philippine Revolution might say that Rizal or Bonifacio or Aguinaldo should have acted in a different way to provide us a better present and future. Hindsight is like watching a thriller knowing the end of the story. Attempts to be objective, or at least charitable, don't sit well with critics who do not presume that our Founding Fathers acted as they thought best. We who have the benefit of hindsight should be more understanding.

Historians who attempt to cross over from a classroom to a wider audience discover that it is difficult to sustain interest, to build tension in a narrative on Rizal or Bonifacio because the reader knows they were killed in the end. But sometimes there are unexpected discoveries.

When I gifted the late Dr. Dominador Almeda, Jr. with the complete set of Rizal's writings to thank him for two extensive bilateral nasal polypectomies, he eagerly opened each volume and started to read. I worried about the long line of patients waiting outside, but he had stumbled on to Rizal's medical notes on nasal polyps. If Rizal were my specialist, I asked Dr. Almeda, would he have treated me of my polyps? Rizal had a patient, a 15-year-old farmer of whom he wrote:

"Noticed a small amount of blood whenever he blew his nose. Then hemorrhages occurred. Increased difficulty of breathing until he could no longer breathe. He was admitted to the Clinic.

"A great deformity of the face between the left and right halves was noticeable and the tumor was so big that it caused exophalmos. The pupil of the left eye was dilated due to the pressure on the ciliary nerves.

"Exploration of the nasal passages revealed an excrescence which bled at the slightest touch; through the mouth the soft palate could be seen to be pushed outwardly with an uneven surface. The tumor was hard, resistant and elastic, with a rough surface and was located at the left side of the base of the cranium. Body of the sphenoid and the basilar apophysis."

I couldn't make sense of the text but then an EENT specialist was on hand to explain. Rizal was not just a compulsive note-taker, he actually did his research and readings thus, cited textbook classification of polyps as well as treatment. The notes do not tell us if Rizal performed or assisted in the operation. Nevertheless, Rizal knew the three methods available for such a case and decided on the Wecker's method on the osteo-cutaneous flap for the large polyps and another for the smaller ones:

"But when they are very large as in this case, total resection of the temporal superior maxillary should be performed, forming an osteo-cutaneous flap. Perform two vertical incisions, 1-2 cm in size, at the medial portion of the zygomatic arch; incise all the soft parts reaching up to the bones. Another incision starting from the large angle of the eye, reaching up to the nasal sphenoid sulcus; the soft palate is divided at its midline and the vault is sectioned. With a pendulum movement it is dislocated producing a wide field.

"Using No. 2 nippers, pull out the polyp with a violent twist. It was then seen that the polyp affected not only the cranial base but also the pharynx and medial apophysis of the pterygoid.

"After applying thermocautery, the flaps were restored, sutured and staphylorraphy performed."

The only part I understood was that the patient (or should I describe him as "the victim"?) died after seven or eight hours! Dr. Almeda then excused Rizal saying, "well, at least the patient didn't die on the operating table." This medical consultation changed my view of Rizal for many years until I re-read the text last week to see that Rizal had another patient with nasal polyps. A 32-year-old married, well-developed man described as having a sanguine temperament. As in the earlier mentioned case, Wecker's procedure was used and the patient was discharged—cured. After seven operations under four different specialists, I often wonder what Rizal would have done to me. Knowing there was a 50 percent chance of a cure or survival gave back the confidence I lost on Rizal.

Of course, it would be unfair to compare and contrast Rizal's methods with the successful endoscopic sinus surgery I recently received from Dr. Wilfredo de la Cruz. During the Rizal centennial, we couldn't find a physician who was willing to provide expert commentary on Rizal's medical and surgical notebooks. I compiled from Rizal's correspondence some of his prescriptions and sought expert pharmacological opinion only to be told these were obsolete. I knew that already, but what was essential was that we shut off hindsight and try to shed some light into Rizal's medical training as well as his methods. We all know and presume Rizal is the paragon of Philippine medicine, but until I get expert medical opinion on this side of our hero, I wait and suspend judgment.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

'Hasta la vista, baby!'

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—This might well be Arnold Schwarzenegger's magic words to another world—from Terminator to Governor of California, which is really more of a nation onto itself rather than a state out of 50 in the union. After all, California boasts the sixth largest economy in the whole world.

It's an amazing victory in an unusual "election" that had all the elements of a soap opera and real life drama combined—fame and fortune for an Austrian bodybuilder turned action movie star, a bride from the rich and famous Kennedy clan, an isolated sitting governor, rolling electricity blackouts in the most populous territory, horrendous taxes and a spate of sexual harassment charges and sleazy stories about the main protagonist, not the least of which was his reported admiration for Hitler.

For a while, the stories of the reportedly harassed 15 women and the insinuations about Schwarzenegger's professed admiration for Hitler seemed to derail his popular campaign. One of his opponents, Arianna Stassinopoulous Huffington, variously described as a pushy and brassy TV pundit and syndicated columnist, as well as "darling of the right," pulled out of the race in an attempt to stop the daring and upstart Arnold of the not-so-right. Even George W. Bush opted to keep mum, afraid that an endorsement of Schwarzenegger, a moderate Republican, might alienate the conservative Republicans, Bush's real power base.

In the end, the Terminator came out unscathed from the bruising and brawling recall struggle, thanking his wife Maria Shriver for supporting him all the way, which must have taken a lot of courage. I could almost hear the collective sigh of pundits adding this latest episode of Maria's struggle to the "fate of the Kennedy women." Watch out for the next book.

Why did I put the word election in quotes earlier? Simply that it was not a real election in the sense that we know an actual election to be—to elect, not to recall, somebody from public office. A recall has seldom happened, and this is only the second time in American history that a sitting governor has been replaced through the recall process. The last one was more than 80 years ago and I couldn't even find out who that was.

What does recall mean, and why is it necessary? Why don't voters just wait for the next regular election to turn the rascal out? Because I don't teach American politics, I started to dig into the origins and dynamics of this process, which is probably unique to American politics. I'm almost tempted to call it the American version of our "people power," except they don't do it in the streets like we do, but in the ballot box, as though it were a real election.

Recall is only part of a package of concepts, the complete set of which includes: initiative, referendum and recall. Schwarzenegger's battle cry, "Take back our State," meaning California, speaks to the origins of these three processes during the so-called Progressive Era in the late 19th and early 20th century. It was a time of reform and a lot of moralizing was going on about the need for good government and not violating the people's trust. The term "people" was central, but power was increasingly being concentrated in politicians—mayors, city managers, governors, etc. Politics was veering toward putting more power in the hands of the business class. This in turn spawned a lot of corruption. This had to be stopped.

Thus, institutions of "direct democracy," invoking the power of the people and citizens had to be devised. Some states, like Wisconsin, began to provide voters with opportunities to vote directly on proposed laws, or other governmental actions. These could be generalized as "initiatives."

Voters could set limits on, say, tax rates. They could block spending proposals, say, on providing social services to illegal immigrants. These "initiated" proposals could be formalized and referred to the electorate for approval or disapproval. Hence, the "referendum" device.

Similarly, a recall procedure can be instituted against a public official who has violated the people's trust or done the things that Gov. Gray Davis, who just lost to the Terminator by a wide margin, had been accused of, such as increasing taxes to the point of squeezing citizens, reckless spending risking huge budget deficits and so on. People feel betrayed. They have to do something: take back their State. Power to the people, in a sense.

So, initiative, referendum and recall allow voters to govern directly without intervention of government officials. But although they involve voting, a referendum, for instance, is technically not an election whose results are final if not contested. The validity of referendum results are subject to judicial review. If a court finds that the referendum violates the state or national constitution, it can overturn the results. This has already happened in the case of a California referendum in 1995, which curtailed social services to illegal aliens. That was ruled unconstitutional.

Many politicians, understandably, don't like referendum and recall because they undermine representative democracy, by substituting it with direct democracy. But this is another discussion altogether.

So, what happens now in this Davis recall, as a matter of process? It's similar to what happens in a regular election. The registrars in California's 58 counties have 28 days to complete official vote counts. County supervisors have seven days to approve the results to be forwarded to the secretary of state. Within five days of certification, any registered voter can request a recount if he or she is willing to pay for it. The entire certification process cannot take longer than 39 days from election day, which is Nov. 15. Upon certification of recall and replacement, the new governor can be sworn into office immediately. Barring any legal challenge, say, from any person that Schwarzenegger had supposedly harassed, the latest an inauguration can happen is Nov. 16.

So, Terminator and supposed Groper Arnold from far-off Austria now becomes the Honorable Governor Schwarzenegger of California. You've really come a long way, baby!

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

THEY SAID

To the end

"We started it, we finish it…It's worse if we don't finish it."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo on the Jose Pidal probe

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On World Anti-Death Penalty Day

IN 1987, the Philippines was the first Asian country to abolish the death penalty. After which, a string of heinous crimes such as rape, murder and kidnap for ransom gave the impression that criminality and lawlessness had reached an alarming level. Thus, six years after the death penalty was eliminated, it was re-imposed. The main reason given was that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime.

According to records of the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG), since the death penalty was imposed, no less than 1,833 persons were sentenced to death. Violent crimes continue to exist in the Philippines despite the Death Penalty Law. The growing number of death convicts is proof enough that the death penalty is no deterrent to crime. What prevents people from committing crimes is the certainty of apprehension, speedy prosecution and, if warranted, conviction.

The Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) joins the voices of the religious, the human rights groups, the academe and the anti-death penalty organizations and individuals in calling for the repeal of the Death Penalty Law.

Not a few studies have already been made which prove the imperfection of the Philippine justice system. In the Supreme Court's review of death penalty cases from 1995 to 1999, it was found that two out of every three death sentences handed down by the local courts were found to be erroneous by the Supreme Court. Aside from this, the Death Penalty Law does not, in any way, offer the offender the opportunity to reform and be able to contribute to the good of society after serving his/her sentence. The Death Penalty Law is final and irreversible. This is a clear miscarriage of justice and a gross violation of a person's right to life.

We call on the Philippine government not to use the death penalty as a way of solving the problem of criminality in the country. No less than former Senior Supt. Mercedes Aguinea Foronda of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology said that lawmakers have been so narrow-minded to think that the only solution to crime is to restore the death penalty. It is no solution.

We urge the Philippine government to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of which it is a signatory to. It is the state's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, the right to life included. Repeal the Death Penalty Law.

—AURORA A. PARONG, M.D.,
executive director,
Task Force Detainees
of the Philippines,
45 St. Mary St., Cubao,
Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Let's revive these trees

WHEN I was a boy, I used to hear stories about houses which were built before World War II of *guijo, yakal, apitong* or *narra*. With the exception of narra which has been declared as our national tree, I think the other three namely: *guijo, yakal* and *apitong* are already extinct just like the dinosaurs.

Is there a possibility that the government can revive and propagate once more these sturdy trees? By the way, which government agency should be on top of this worthwhile project?

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court, Malanday,
Marikina City

The courage in Loren

SEN. Loren "Best Friend" Legarda has my full support and respect. Her decision to be independent comes as a proof of her courage to stand firm and objective amid controversial issues that have beset our country. This is how I have come to know Loren in the years that we have worked in the Senate.

Certainly, the party has just lost one of our stalwarts, a formidable leader. Yet, I am optimistic that this will all work out for the good and benefit of the country.

Loren has proven her capacity to rise above every challenge amid political pressure and public opinion and I know that she can do as much for and in the service of the Filipino people.

She can rest assured of my support in all her undertakings. *Ngayon higit kailanman, ikaw pa rin ang* best friend *ko saan man naroroon!*

—SEN. JUAN M. FLAVIER,
GSIS Bldg., Financial Center,
Roxas Boulevard.,
Pasay City

Estrada plunder case: What happened?

WE have not read or heard of the progress of former President Estrada's case in the Sandiganbayan.

Is the court sleeping on the case? Who are the counsel representing him now?

May the INQUIRER and militant society prod the court to take faster action?

Is the court still waiting for something?

—BING DIONIDA,
San Francisco, CA, USA,
bdionida2001@yahoo.com

On GMA's decision to run

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's winning the tacit support of US President Bush is not and will never be reason enough for her to renege on her word to our people. We have long decried the manner in which our collective decency, integrity and self-respect has been waylaid by our supposed leaders.

We are not just numbers adding up to percentages that pollsters survey on the behest and funding of candidates. We are a people tired of being the poorer cousins in Asia but still hoping to overcome and finally redeem ourselves despite Ms Macapagal and our politicians.—**Lucy Jasmin, Indonesia, via e-mail**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

I just want to make a reaction to the unfair comment of Neal Cruz. In his column, he said that the President was lying when she declared her intention to run for President this coming election. To me, she merely changed her mind. Changing one's mind is not necessarily lying.—**Russel de Vera, Saipan, Northern Marianas, via e-mail**

* * *

Where did Neal Cruz get the idea that, in the Philippines, word of honor is stronger among the poor? He should know that in these days, people ante up only because they have to. In the case of the President, as she has broken her word, the people have to decide whether she should ante up, and what price she should pay. **—Leonardo Esmero, Cebu City, via e-mail**

* * *

If the President is accused of not keeping her word not to run in May 2004, she did it right. She needed to make that statement [not to run in 2004] to calm down the bad situation at that time. The chaos in our government now was engineered by the opposition and others hungry for power.—**Romeo Navidad, Saudi Arabia, via e-mail**

* * *

Your recent news about the President running in the 2004 elections has a stabilizing effect on the Philippines.

With the incumbent President seeking a full mandate from the Filipino people and with a number of qualified possible opposition presidential candidates, the Philippines would be seen by the world as a mature democracy. The presidential and national elections come 2004 should crystallize the issues that will be presented to the electorate by both the administration and opposition parties.

I just hope that there will only be two presidential candidates who will contest the presidency in order that the will of the majority shall prevail, unlike instances in the past where there were so many candidates, resulting in a plurality without a run-off election.—**Romulo Enzon, California, USA via e-mail**

* * *

Now that the President has reneged on her promise not to run, it is but only fair for the INQUIRER to correct itself by giving the award of Filipino of the Year to Acsa Ramirez. It would be an insult to your millions of avid readers if you will not correct this glaring mistake. Take back the recognition you gave GMA, obviously, she did not deserve such recognition as Filipino of the Year.—**Larry Gutierrez, Manila, via e-mail**

* * *

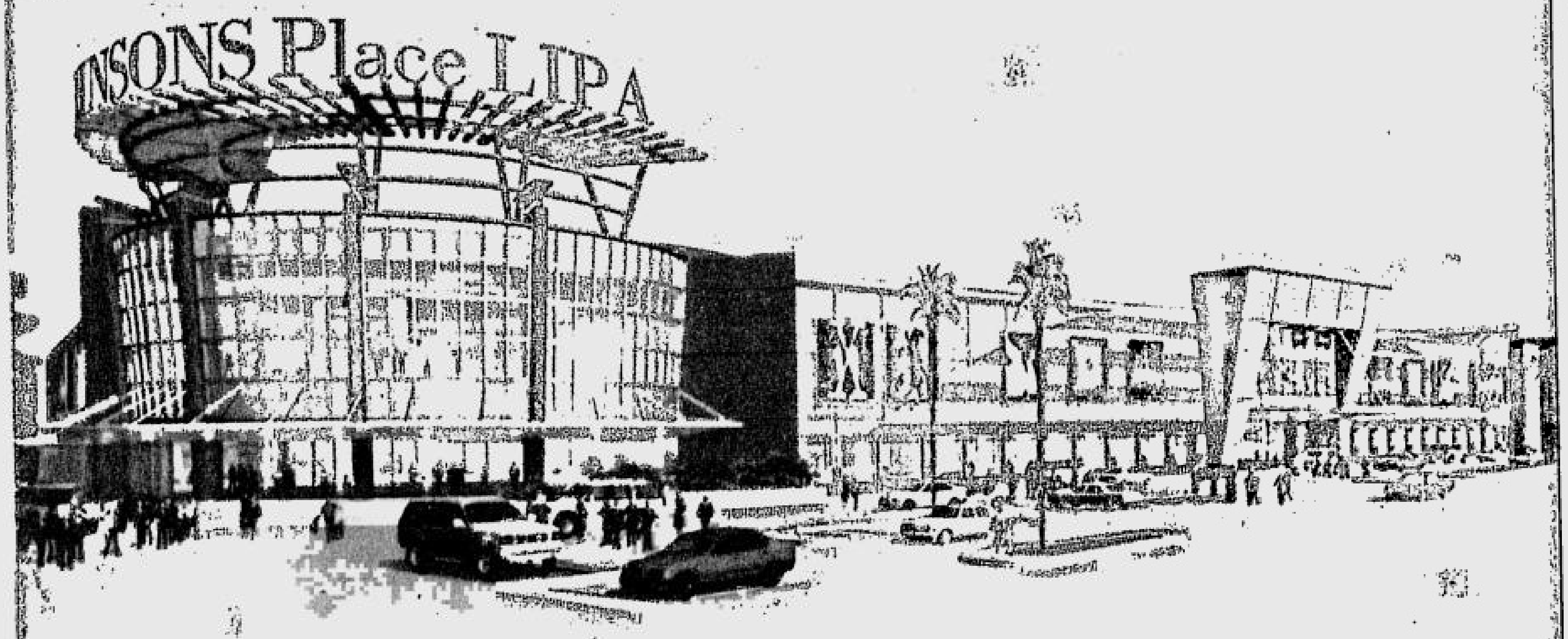
Dear Ms President, I know how wonderful your heart and your plan is for the country but I feel that as an inspiration and an example to the young, you have a big responsibility not to run for President in 2004. Not because you are a failure or inefficient but because you are a winner and a woman of your word.—**Maricar Adams, Manila via e-mail**

* * *

The President's declaration of running in the 2004 elections is a blatant betrayal of the Filipino people. Contrary to her Dec. 30, 2002 declaration to step down come election time, her recent statement proved that all of that were mere statements full of trickery and deception.

I am one of those who silently applauded when reports surfaced of her plan not to run in 2004. I said to myself, "at last here is a leader who really has concern for our country; she's willing to set aside personal ambitions in the name of national unity and recovery."

Luckily for us, there remains one venue where we can impeach her (sort of). Let us not vote for her in 2004.—**Ruelle Albert D. Castro, Manila, via e-mail**



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Chavit tagged brains in killing

Ex-gov says accusation part of Erap plot to exact revenge

BAGUIO CITY—It was two years after Ilocos Sur auditor Agustin Chan was killed in an ambush in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, and it was only now that Chan's widow revealed who she believes to be the mastermind of the murder.

Lawyer Estelita Cordero, Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) chair, declared on behalf of the family that the sitting governor and former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson should have been investigated for the crime.

Chan's widow Evelyn, in a press conference here on Friday, said she believed a top official of Ilocos Sur had a hand in the ambush slaying of her husband and driver Alex Regacho while they were cruising along the highway in Barangay Paing, Bantay on Oct. 4, 2001.

Evelyn said her husband was not feeling well the day before he was ambushed but he told her that he had to go to his office in Vigan because he had to submit important documents to the Commission on Audit regional office in San Fernando City.

Cordero, who also attended the press conference, said they later learned through a series of tracer letters that Chan was investigating the list of projects funded by Republic Act 7171 fund or the money from the tobacco excise tax.

Evelyn corroborated an affidavit filed by her husband's high school classmate, Roy Dawa, who said that Chan was talking to someone in his cellular phone while he and his former classmates were drinking on Sept. 28, 2001.

Chan was heard as saying, "It cannot be, Sir" and "I submitted it already, Sir" in Ilocano.

When Dawa asked who Chan was talking to, he said it was "Gob" or the governor.

The Ilocos Sur governor is Deogracias Victor Savellano but Sisa's Cordero said Chan was actually investigating Singson.

Asked why it took her a long time to speak, Evelyn claimed that the police had been sitting on the job.

"*Nakakainis na talaga*. We have to bring this out," she said.

Cordero said the police considered the Chan murder "work-related."

Singson and Savellano reiterated their earlier statements that they had nothing to do with Chan's murder.

Singson said Cordero's accusation was part of the continuous harassment against him because he was the star witness in the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"Cordero is lawyering for Estrada so she would do everything, including inventing stories, to tarnish my credibility," Singson told the INQUIRER.

He said Cordero, his former party mate, was attacking him because he did not give in to her political requests and favors when they were allies.

Savellano shrugged off Chan's and Cordero's accusations.

"The issue had long been discussed and I had repeatedly denied any involvement (in the murder). Let them file the case and I would answer it accordingly," he said. *Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

3 N. Vizcaya town police chiefs sacked over 'jueteng'

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The top police official in Nueva Vizcaya has ordered the relief of the police chiefs of three major towns here following the reported return of jueteng in various parts of the province.

In a report submitted to Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani on Tuesday, Senior Supt. Jesus Manubay, provincial police director, relieved Chief Inspectors James Afalla, Teodoro Santos and Dionisio de Guzman, police chiefs of Solano, Bayombong and Bambang towns, respectively.

Manubay cited an investigation report that exposed the operation of jueteng in the three towns "allegedly through the blessings of the chief executives (mayors) and COPs (Chiefs of Police) of these towns."

Manubay also warned Senior Insp. Carmelita Bacena, acting police chief of Bagabag town, of similar punishment as reports indicated that jueteng continues in her area.

The illegal numbers game, Manubay said, resumed operations on Oct. 1 in four towns, and was being managed by one identified only as "Alex," supposedly with the protection of the son of a Nueva Vizcaya politician. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GSIS workers in 2 Visayan cities join protest rallies

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Government employees in Iloilo and Tacloban cities yesterday held separate rallies in front of the office of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) to protest the suspension of loans and the delay in release of benefits of pensioners.

Around 100 employees from public schools, local government units, health centers and regional government offices carried placards and streamers in the rally in front of the GSIS field office along Iznart Street.

The rally in Tacloban City, Leyte was participated in by about 400 government workers from 26 different government agencies.

The two groups demanded the resignation of Winston Garcia, GSIS president and chair.

The protesters in Iloilo City held a five-minute noise barrage before dispersing. They were led by the Protect Our Funds (Pro-Fund), an alliance of various organizations and employees unions and associations, and the Confederation for the Unity Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage).

Georgie Floro, Pro-Fund convenor and president of the Iloilo National High School Faculty and Employees Union, said they would continue protesting until the release of loans and benefits returns to normal.

"They should process our burial benefits now so that it will be released to our families when we die," said Iloilo provincial capitol employee Alton Avior, hitting the delay in the processing of loans.

Jesusa Ruby Teruel, GSIS field manager, maintained that the suspension of loans was due to the computerization of their system.

She said their office, which has 45,000 clients from the provinces of Iloilo, Guimaras and Antique, has been processing loans from employees of the Department of Education. The office has also been processing applications from non-DepEd employees filed before Aug. 16.

In Tacloban, The government workers started their rally at about 9 a.m. in front of the GSIS office along Marasbaras Street. They dispersed two hours later.

Gov't men's union offers help to solve GSIS crisis

A GROUP of government workers offered its help to solve the crisis now facing the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).

In a statement, the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA) said it was willing to be "part of the solution" to the problems plaguing the GSIS.

The statement quoted Esperanza Ocampo, PGEA president, as calling for sobriety among government employees.

"The sentiment is for mass action," said Ocampo in the statement.

"But if we do that, we're sacrificing our service to the people. We're supposed to be public servants and taxpayers are our ultimate boss," she said.

Ocampo, also a member of the board of trustees of Pag-Ibig and union head of Philhealth, said she believed that the release of benefits to GSIS members would return to normal if her group was allowed to help find a solution to the crisis.

"We believe that records must be strengthened. If the GSIS has to do it, it must do it the fastest way," she said.

She said the delay in the releases was mainly due to the failure of government agencies to remit members' contributions to the GSIS.

The release of the benefits, though, was slowed by a computerization program implemented by GSIS Chief Winston Garcia.

The computerization was meant to clean the records of the GSIS and remove spurious beneficiaries and improve efficiency.

"Anything that will reform and improve the system must be accepted by the members because it will be for their benefit in the long run," said Ocampo in the statement.

She said many members believe that the GSIS is not cash-strapped but merely bogged down by the failure of government agencies to remit members' fees.

"What is clear to us is GSIS has huge receivables from the national government representing government and members' shares not remitted on time," said Ocampo.

According to Ocampo, the unremitted contributions of members has reached P40 billion.

Partly to blame are members who fail to pay their loans on time, which has led to unpaid loans of about P1.5 billion.

"Some members would negotiate with their cashiers not to deduct their dues yet," said Ocampo.

Malaysia asked to send ceasefire observer team

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) yesterday asked the Malaysian government to fast track the deployment of a third party monitoring or observers' team to Mindanao.

Preparations have been made for the coming of the observers team, which will ensure that both parties adhere to the implementing guidelines of the ceasefire agreement.

The observers' team will be based in Zamboanga City while four sub-offices will be established in other areas.

At the 12th Joint CCCH Meeting at the Waterfront Insular Hotel here on Saturday, the government and MILF have once again committed to adhere to the guidelines to avoid clashes.

Benjie Midtimbang, chair of the MILF CCCH, stressed the need to enhance the communications system between the military and the MILF.

Midtimbang said MILF Chair Al Haj Murad Ebrahim has high hopes that the efforts of the government-MILF CCCH will contribute significantly to the overall objective of attaining peace in Mindanao.

GRP CCCH Chair Gen. Rodolfo Garcia said the past two months have been "generally peaceful."

The Army general said the exploratory talks were also an important factor that paved the way for the resumption of the formal panel negotiations.

Both parties agreed that the implementation of the ceasefire has been successful since the resumption of the talks on July 19, 2003.

In the same meeting, both parties also agreed to expedite the judicial process for the lifting of the warrants of arrest of MILF leaders, who are facing charges for the bombings in Mindanao.

A court in Davao has temporarily suspended the serving of the warrants of arrest to 10 MILF leaders to pave the way for the talks. *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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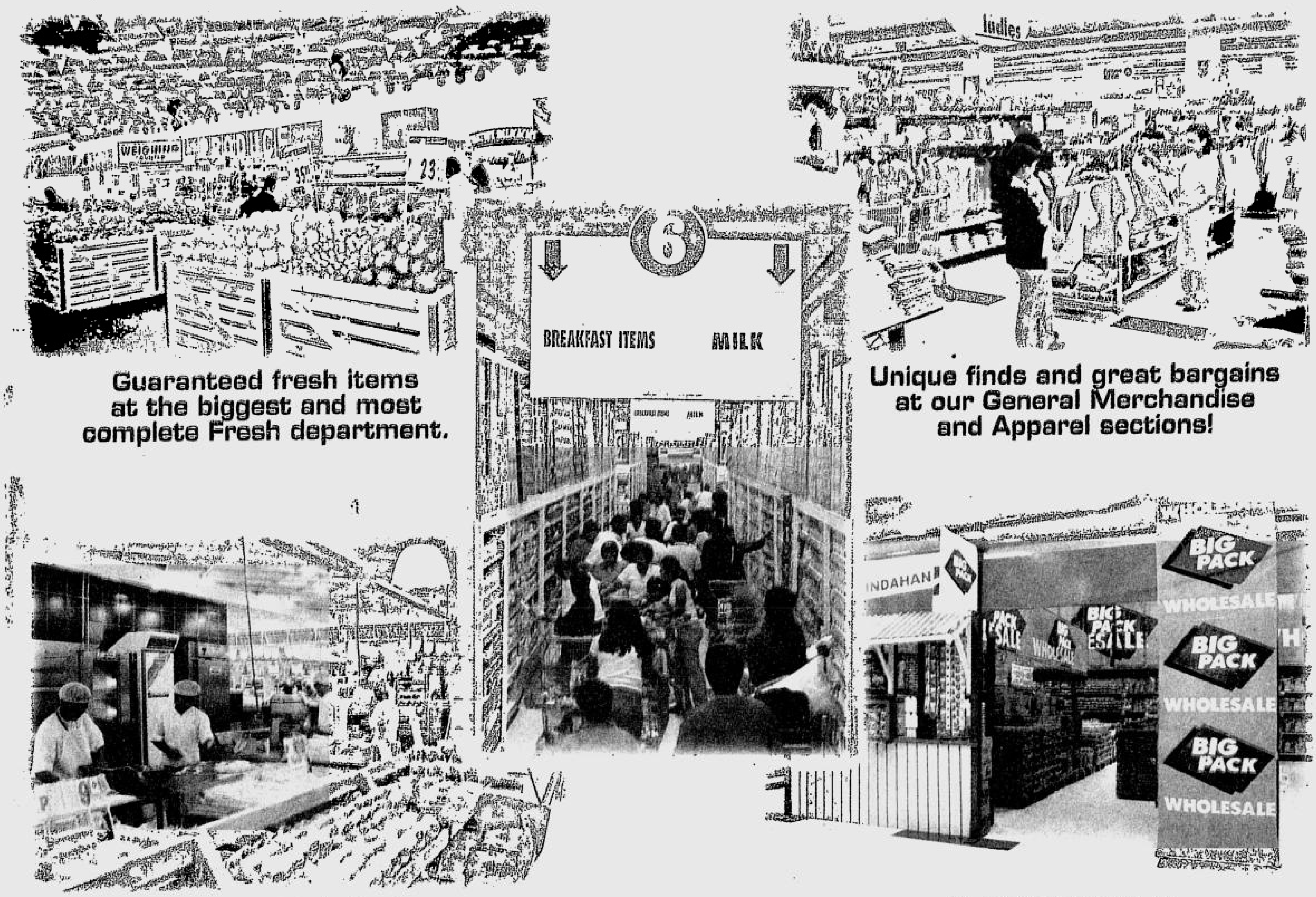
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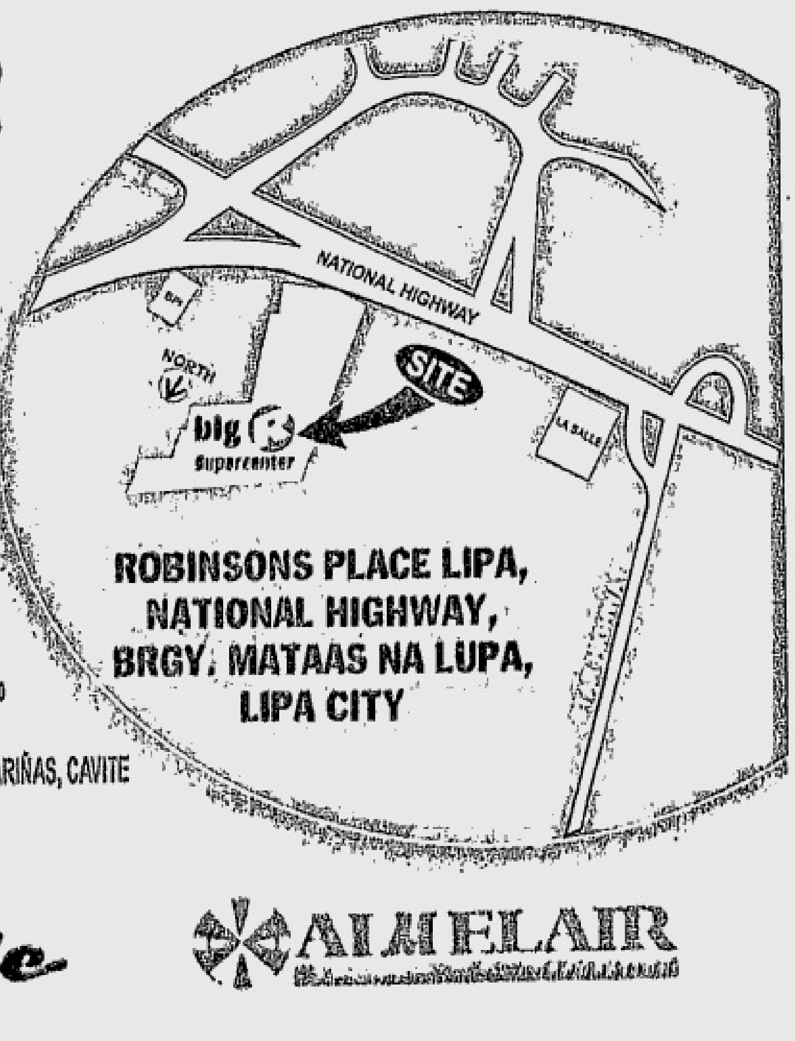
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Hospital shelves medicine that made babies ill

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Officials of the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center here ordered the shelving of the remaining batch of an antibiotic imported from India after at least eight babies confined in the hospital's pediatric ward experienced chills and vomited when they were given the medicine on Monday.

The mother of a year-old girl said she noticed her daughter showing signs of discomfort 30 minutes after the hospital's staff administered the Penicillin G (a brand name of the generic antibiotic benzylpenicillin sodium) to her child.

The mother said she was also surprised when she learned that other children in the pediatrics ward experienced chilling after the drug was given to them.

"My baby was shivering and so were the other babies. To my horror, my baby and the other babies who were injected with Penicillin G turned blue. Other babies were vomiting," she told the INQUIRER.

She said the parents started to seek an explanation from the nurses and complained that their children, who were mostly diagnosed as suffering from bronchopneumonia, were vomiting and experiencing chills.

"We demanded an explanation from the nurses and the doctors on the effects of the antibiotic. But all they said was the babies needed to be given oxygen. They were explaining it to us as if the situation was normal," she said.

Dr. Manuel Factora, BGHMC director, said the babies, during the standard skin testing for the antibiotic, showed that they were resistant to any side effect of the drug.

"Despite the test, the patients had suffered the effects. The chills may have been an allergic reaction to the drug. We are investigating why this occurred when the children showed resistance to allergies during the skin testing," Factora said.

He said they are investigating what caused the allergic reaction.

He said he ordered the BGHMC pharmacy to shelve the 752 remaining vials of Penicillin G and test if it indeed caused the allergic reaction.

Celia Lazatin, BGHMC head pharmacist, said the hospital has been using the drug for three years now. The drug, which costs P10 a vial, is being imported by local suppliers from India.

"We have been using this drug for three years and nothing like this happened to any of our patients before. That is why we are also wondering why this happened," Lazatin said.

Lazatin said the BGHMC is buying 2,000 vials of Penicillin G monthly.

"This is the problem with the medicines with generic names. Our fear is that some of the drugs supplied to us may have come from one of those fly-by-night manufacturers. Before the generic brands were approved, we could solely rely on branded drugs, but now, we have to monitor several brands," Lazatin said.

Cops say cult behind slay of poll exec

BUTUAN CITY—Police authorities in the Caraga Region said a cultist group could be behind the Sept. 29 ambush-slaying of Wenefreda Taer, election supervisor of Placer town in Surigao del Norte.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario issued this statement after admitting that the two suspects who were arrested for the murder but whom he declined to identify belong to the cultist group formerly headed by Arnulfo Mayugdo.

Mayugdo and Taer had a serious spat in the past, according to police.

In one of their confrontations, the cult leader allegedly fired a gun at the election official.

This prompted Taer to file attempted homicide charges against the cult leader.

On Sept. 4, police were enforcing an arrest order against Mayugdo for firing a gun at Taer but the cult leader tried to prevent police officers from capturing him by taking a couple as hostage.

During a negotiation for the release of the couple, Mayugdo became extra defiant.

He was killed during the negotiations.

Olario said he believes members of Mayugdo's cult wanted to avenge Mayugdo's death.

Taer, 55, along with her son Rodolfo, were on their way to work when two motorcycle-riding gunmen ambushed them in Barangay Pungtod in Alegria town, also in Surigao del Norte. Mother and son died on the spot.

"It's becoming clear that Mayugdo's followers killed Taer because her case led to their leaders death," Olario said. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

COMING TO TOWN TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Workers of the Baguio City government start preparations early enough for the Yuletide season as they hang colored lights around the city's pine trees.

Mayoral feud hikes tension

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales—Supporters of unseated Mayor Romeo Lonzanida on Tuesday prevented incoming Mayor Juan Alvez from assuming the post after they padlocked the municipal hall and barricaded the road leading to the building.

No one was hurt but tension was high in the town, reports said.

Alvez took his oath of office before Judge Consuelo Bocar of the Municipal Trial Court on the strength of a writ of execution ordered by the Commission on Elections.

Alvez was to assume office but failed to go to the town hall due to the barricade.

Additional policemen from the provincial police headquarters were sent to the town to reinforce the local police force and to prevent violence between the camps of the two officials.

Alvez earlier won an election protest against Lonzanida. On Oct. 3, the Comelec's first division issued a writ of execution on its order annulling the proclamation of Lonzanida.

Alvez asked the police to stay neutral in the conflict and help in the orderly transition of leadership.

Gov. Vicente Magsaysay installed Vice Mayor Lugil Ragadio as acting mayor to replace Lonzanida who reportedly went on leave. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT is exactly 515 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Board member's backers lash out at Army accusation

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—Various groups and individuals in Capiz including the governor have belied the allegation of an Army spokesman here that a member of the provincial board is using his office to collect "revolutionary taxes" on behalf of communist rebels.

A group of journalists will file a resolution defending provincial board member Cezar Talabucon against the accusation of Maj. Oscar Lasangue, spokesperson of the Army's Task Force Panay (TFP).

Lasangue, also the chief of the Armed Force's Civil Relations Group in Western Visayas, alleged that Talabucon's office at the Capiz provincial capitol served as the "collection department" of "revolutionary taxes from business groups and individuals" who received letters from the rebels.

"I don't believe it," Bermejo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The governor said he would not tolerate it if the allegations were true and challenged Lasangue to show proof "because the allegations are very serious."

Bermejo said Lasangue should file charges in court if he could back up his claims.

Issuing public statements without concrete proof, he added, was a "cheap shot."

Lasangue had refused to give details but stood by his allegation, saying this was based on intelligence reports from "reliable military and civilian sources."

The Capiz Independent Media Circle (CIMC) also defended Talabucon, an adviser of the group and publisher of the weekly newspaper Watchman's Report.

Capiz-based journalist Felipe Celino said the group's members coming from various media outlets in Capiz would pass a resolution in support of the board member.

"These are false allegations," said Arthur Arrojado, village chief of Inzo Arnaldo where Talabucon resides.

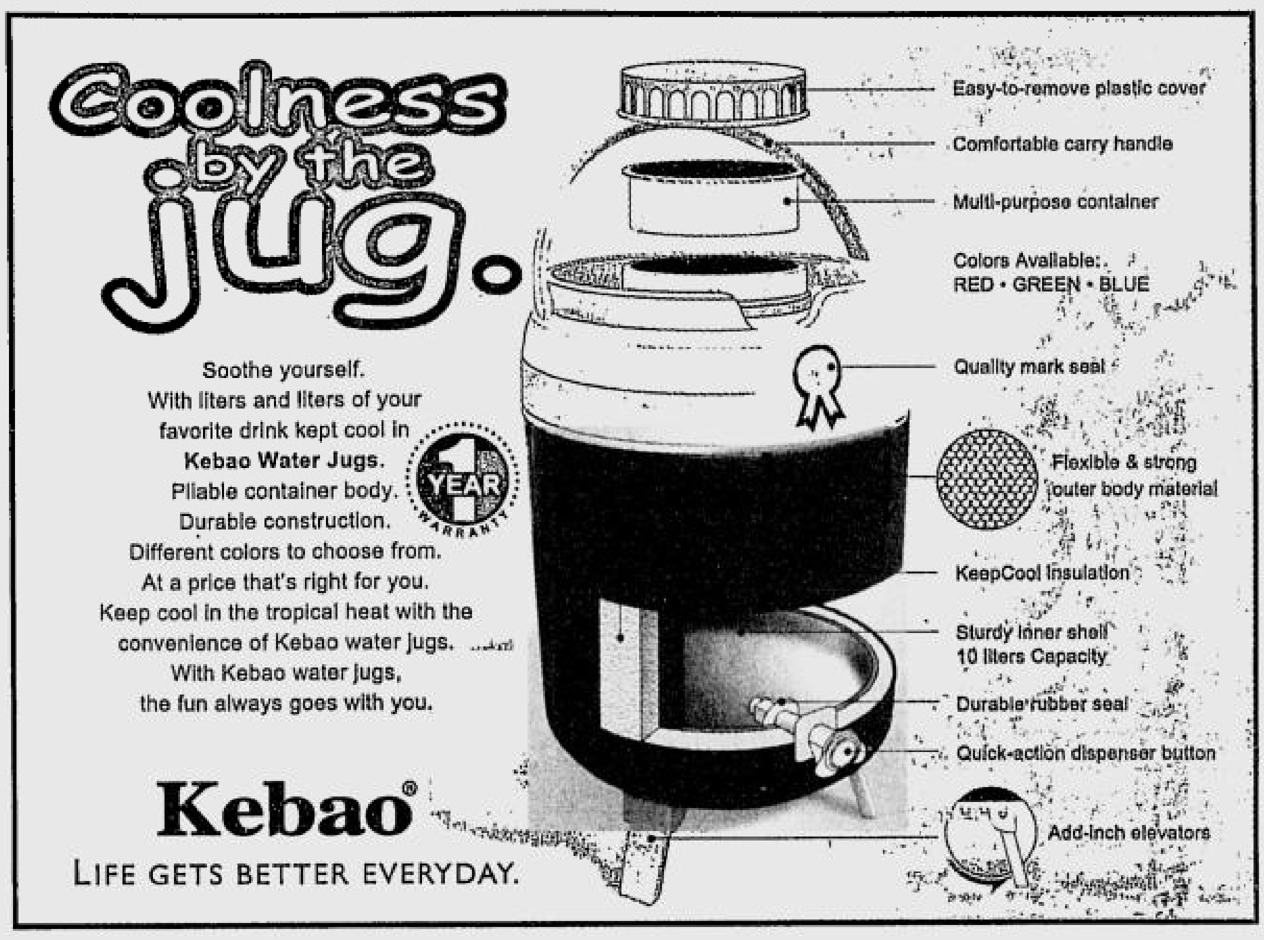
"We know him (Talabucon) as a very helpful, honorable and highly respected official who would not do illegal acts," he said.

Slain cop buried Saturday

SPO2 Frumencio "Chit" La Fuente was among the brave policemen who were killed during an escape of a captured Abu Sayyaf suspect inside Camp Crame.

La Fuente, born Oct. 27, 1969, left behind his wife Elsa and son Jalen and other relatives.

His remains will be buried on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2003.



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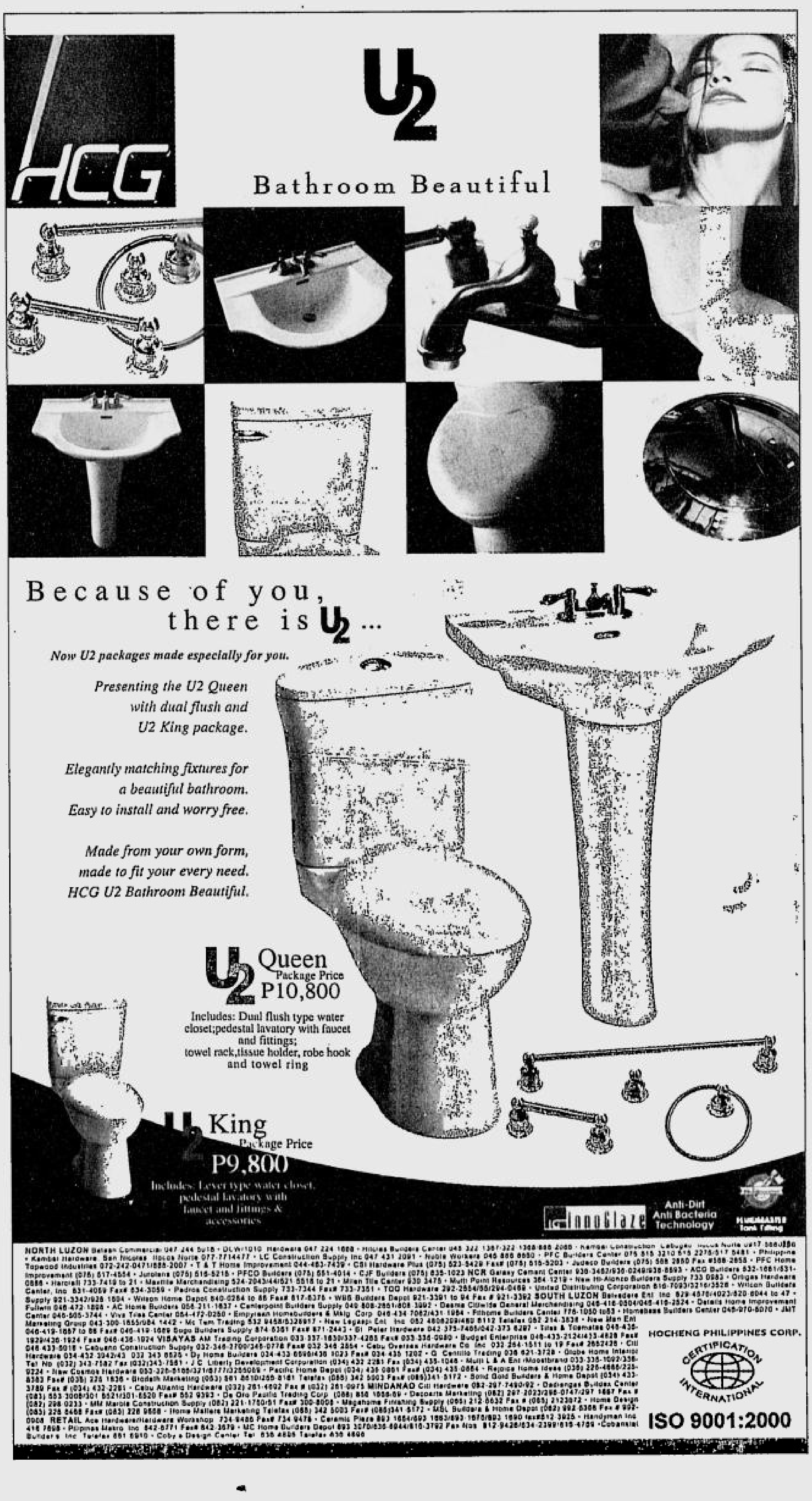

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Judge no stranger to controversy

From page A1

the two sons of former Mindoro Occidental Rep. Ricardo Quintos.

She became the target of militant protest actions after she denied the motion to release the Mamburao 6.

Yadao earlier denied that she was appointed to the QC RTC by then President Joseph Estrada upon the endorsement of his brother-in-law Raul de Guzman and Enrile. She said it was Espiridion Laxa, a lawyer also identified with the Estrada camp, who endorsed her appointment.

"Estrada had merely approved my transfer to the QC RTC Branch 81 upon Laxa's endorsement in January 2000," said Yadao, who became permanent judge of the special court nine months later.

Not afraid

Yesterday, Yadao, a widow of the late Prosecutor Felipe Yadao, refused to grant interviews to the media. Last year when she first handled the Kuratong case, she said she was not afraid of taking on any case "whether or not it involves high-ranking government officials."

She has been in government service for more than 30 years, starting in the 1970s as a deputy clerk of court.

A graduate of the Manuel L. Quezon University, Yadao said it was former President Fidel V. Ramos who opened the door for her to serve in the judicial branch of the government. She was named judge in 1996 assigned to QC RTC Branches 79 and 99, and concurrently to Branch 38 of Maddela, Quirino.

Cory appointment

Yadao started her career in law as a deputy branch clerk of court of Quezon City in 1970. Then she became the secretary of the committee on civil service at the Batasang Pambansa.

JUDGE Yadao: Not afraid of taking on any case "whether or not it involves high-ranking government officials." PDI PHOTO

She then had a six-year stint as labor arbiter in the National Labor Relations Commission.

She served as the assistant fiscal of Quezon City on an extended appointment by former President Corazon Aquino for the next 10 years.

Yadao initially thought she would be excluded from the list of judges earlier named to possibly handle the Kuratong Baleleng case.

It was Yadao who was ordered by the Supreme Court in May 2002 to determine whether the two-year prescriptive period for the revival of the criminal cases had already lapsed when the Department of Justice revived the Kuratong cases in April 2002.

Motion denied

Sigfrid Fortun, counsel of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, attempted to halt the raffling of the case but Judge Natividad Dizon, of RTC Branch 106 and head of the re-raffle committee, denied his motion to suspend the "much-awaited" reopening of the case involving the alleged summary execution in May 1995 of 11 suspected members of the Kuratong Baleleng robbery gang.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court ordered the reopening for trial of the case and directed that the 11 cases against Lacson be consolidated and re-raffled to one of the Quezon City special courts assigned to deal with heinous crimes.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, who heads the legal team that Justice Simeon Datumanong has formed to handle the prosecution of the case, said he expected the warrant of arrest for Lacson to be issued on Monday.

"There was no order from the higher court not to proceed with the raffle, so (QC RTC) Executive Judge Natividad Dizon proceeded with the re-raffle of the cases. We expect a speedy trial, which will begin as soon as possible," Zuño said.

Asked if he was content that the case went to the sala of Yadao, Zuño refused to elaborate saying "it was the result of the raffle."

But one of Lacson's counsels, Rufus Rodriguez questioned the procedure. "There is a pending motion for reconsideration (beofre the SC) on the issue of re-raffle and yet they proceeded. There is clearly a move to railroad (the case)," Rodriguez said.

Human rights lawyer Arno Sanidad also questioned the manner by which the Kuratong Baleleng case was raffled off at the Quezon City courts, saying it was not "in the spirit" of the SC ruling.

The Kuratong case was among the four heinous crime cases scheduled to be raffled off between Branches 76 and 81, the two QC special courts.

'Wheel of Fortune'

Which case goes to what court was determined by spinning a disk marked by different court branch numbers—a la "Wheel of Fortune."

Lacson's case was the fourth or last on the list.

But Sanidad complained that the wheel was spun only once to determine which of the two courts gets the first case on the list; the three other cases were then assigned alternately between two branches.

Thus, when Branch 76 got the first case, Branch 81 was automatically assigned to the second, Branch 76 took the third, and again Branch 81 got the fourth, which was on Kuratong.

To Sanidad, such a process was a "transgression" of the high court's ruling, which to him contemplated a "special raffle" of the Kuratong: meaning, each case should require its own spin of the wheel rather than have its court assignment "predetermined."

Proper procedure

"We have no objection as to which court gets the case," said the lawyer of the Kuratong victims.

"But I think the proper procedure was not followed. We absolutely have no intention of delaying the case but we are now thinking what to do about it," he said.

Sanidad said that under court rules, Yadao has "10 days" upon receiving the case to rule whether to dismiss it, issue a warrant, or ask the prosecution for additional evidence.

The Executive Committee, which handled the re-raffle of the cases, was headed by Judge QC RTC Executive Judge Natividad Dizon. The members were 1st First Vice Executive Judge headed by Apolinario Bruselas, 2nd Vice EJ Thelma Ponferrada, 3rd Vice EJ Jaime Salazar.

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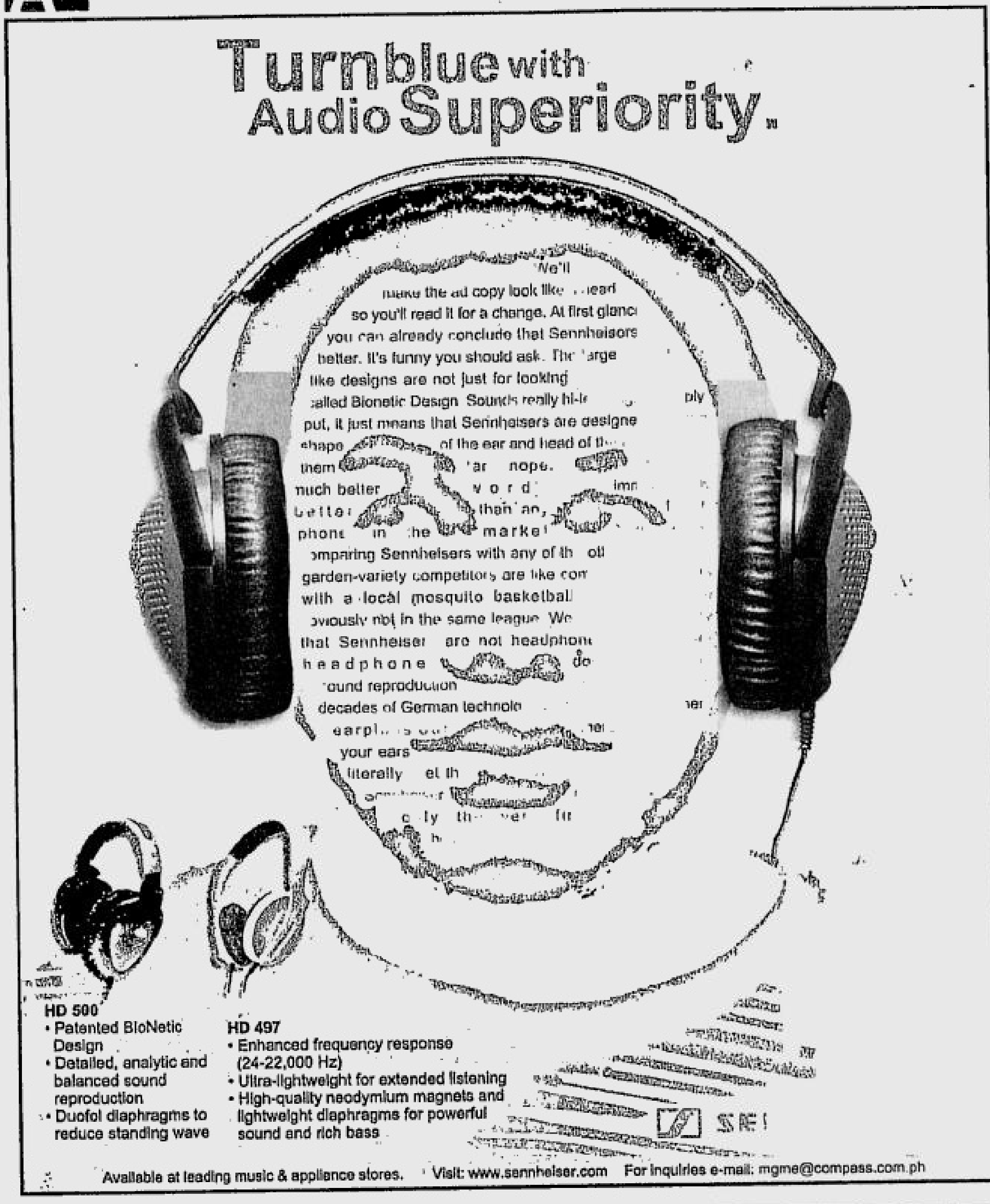
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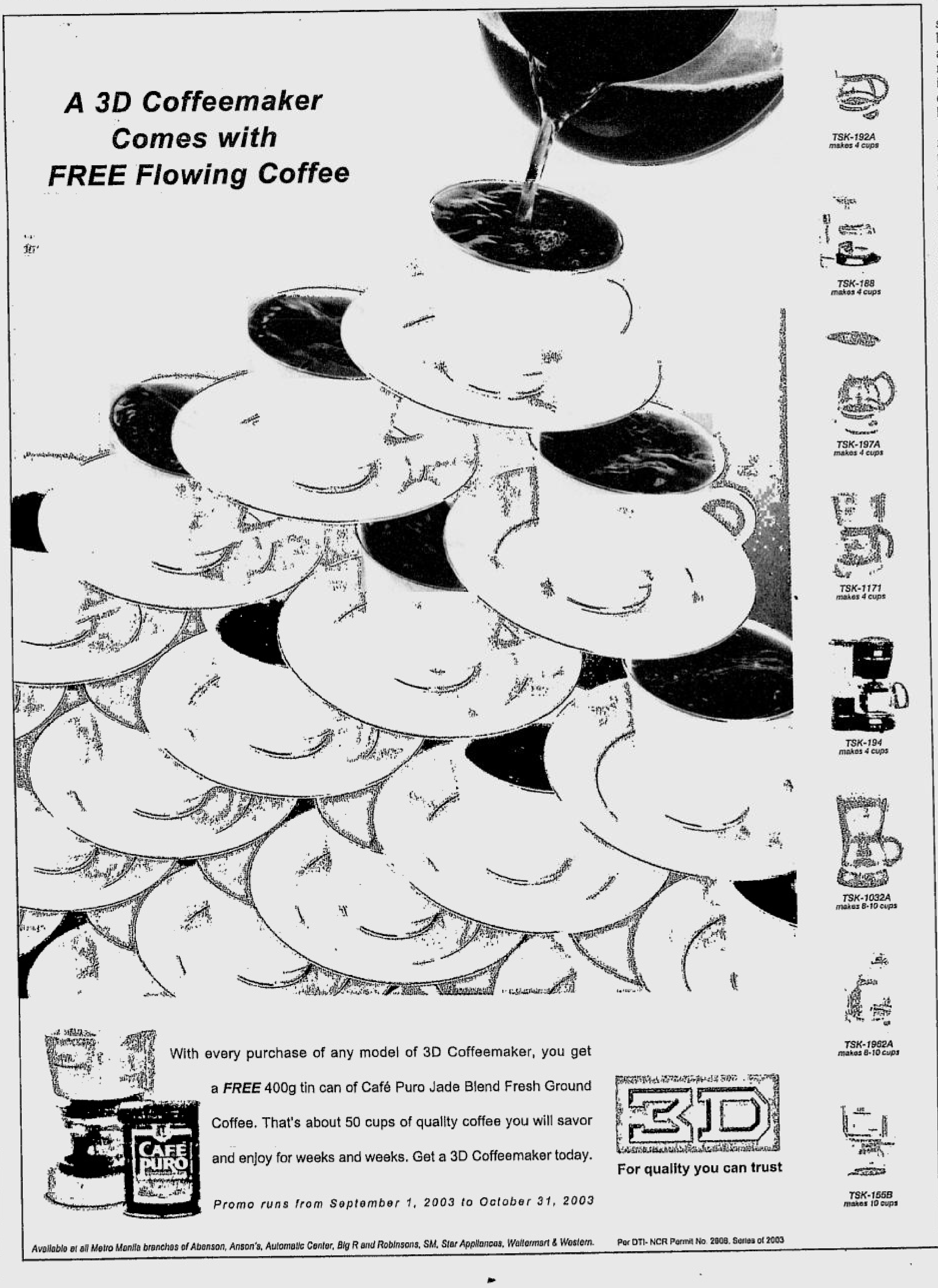
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PCGG loses another case to another Marcos crony

By Volt Contreras

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government suffered another setback in its efforts to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies when Sandiganbayan sheriffs yesterday asked the PCGG to vacate the management of Oceanic Wireless Network Inc., a telecommunications firm put up by the late Marcos crony Jose Africa.

The setback came a day after the antigraft court voided the PCGG freeze order on 20 percent of the shares of San Miguel Corp. being claimed by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr.

In a letter to PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, the Sandiganbayan directed her to implement a Sept. 21, 2001 Supreme Court ruling declaring null and void the sequestration order on Africa's Owni shares the PCGG issued in June 1988.

The SC ruling became final and executory on Feb. 21, 2002, but the Sandiganbayan issued a writ for its execution only on Sept. 30.

Affirming a 1994 decision of the Sandiganbayan's Third Division, the high tribunal cited the PCGG's "failure to commence the necessary judicial action" against the firm's stakeholders within the mandated six-month period after seizure.

The high court also noted that the freeze orders on Africa's shares and that on his son Victor's were merely signed by one PCGG commissioner and not the required two.

The two-commissioner rule was also cited by the Sandiganbayan on Wednesday when it lifted the PCGG sequestration order on the 20-percent bloc in San Miguel. The ruling brought the control of three board seats back to Cojuangco and his alleged dummy companies, which acquired the shares using the levy imposed by the Marcos regime on coconut farmers.

PCGG nominees in Owni were ordered to vacate the firm's office at the Electra House on Esteban Street, Legaspi Village, Makati, and to turn over corporate records to the estate of Africa, now represented in the case by his son Victor.

The nominees included Maximo Maceren, Antonio Rosales, Mauro Estrada and Manuel Parras.

They were also ordered to undertake an accounting of all transactions they made on behalf of Owni, including the disbursement of its funds.

Nene: Opposition has lost Danding

From page A1

vincing evidence that these orders were necessary. The antigraft court said only one commissioner of the PCGG had signed all but one of the sequestration orders when at least two were required.

Arroyo also suspects that Malacañang had cut a secret deal with Cojuangco to dissuade him from running in May. Sharing Arroyo's suspicion, Bayan Rep. Crispin Beltran said the Sandiganbayan decision "smells strongly of under-the-table" compromises.

Neither confirm nor deny

Malacañang neither confirmed nor denied that there were talks between the administration and Cojuangco to ask him to drop his presidential bid and support Ms Macapagal.

"Issues like this will be left to the political leaders (to handle)," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye denied the Palace had forged a compromise deal with Cojuangco which resulted in the Sandiganbayan's lifting of the sequestration order on disputed shares of San Miguel. He said the President respected the independence of judicial authorities.

"But we will probably not take the decision sitting down," Bunye said on dzRH radio. He said the PCGG was going to appeal the ruling.

The PCGG claims that Cojuangco illegally acquired the 20-percent stake in San Miguel using the levy that deposed President Ferdinand Marcos imposed on coconut farmers during martial law. Cojuangco says he acquired the big bloc of shares using private funds.

As far as Sen. Edgardo Angara is concerned, the Sandiganbayan ruling is in order.

Angara, president of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, said the insinuation was unfair to both the court and the Palace. "It is a wild conjecture. If it were true, then therefore the Sandiganbayan is a rubber stamp of Malacañang. The (latter) can then do what it pleases."

He said that it would be hard to find evidence to prove the link. "It's not right to say such things. We should not go along with that analysis."

Accra law firm

Angara is among the nine lawyers of the Accra law office impleaded in the case filed with the Sandiganbayan in connection with the San Miguel shares allegedly acquired by Cojuangco and his associates using coco levy funds.

Accra allegedly incorporated the 34 companies that Cojuangco had used to acquire 20 percent of San Miguel. A 1998 Supreme Court ruling allowed Cojuangco to vote on the 20-percent stake, but left to the Sandiganbayan to determine its ownership. The stake gave Cojuangco's group three seats on San Miguel's 15-member board.

The court placed limits on how Cojuangco's group could handle the shares since the government "continues to hold a claim on the shares which is yet to be resolved."

Divisive

Pimentel warned his colleagues in the opposition that the favorable ruling of the antigraft court on Cojuangco could further divide the opposition camp which, he said, was still fragmented.

Broad coalition

He noted that the ruling party still had the support of a broad coalition formed in the 2001 senatorial elections, and that its ranks "would increase" should the NPC formally decide to maintain its alliance with the ruling party.

With or without a favorable ruling by the Sandiganbayan, Cojuangco is running, according to Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental).

"*Tatakbo* (He's running)," said Paras, who is leading a group of 40 to 50 Lakas congressmen egging Cojuangco to run.

"Property considerations are not the purpose of Danding's running," Paras said. "His purpose is to make a difference and to turn around the economy."

Oct. 15 decision

Paras said Cojuangco would declare his plans before Oct. 15. "Danding will not deal with anybody," Paras said. "*Tuloy siya* (It's a go for him)."

Paras lashed out at Senator Arroyo for saying that Cojuangco would no longer run and instead support Ms Macapagal because of the Sandiganbayan ruling. "Just like any statement made by Joker, it always turns out false," he said.

Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr. (NPC, Tarlac), a nephew of Cojuangco, said sarcastically of Arroyo: "He is good."

"He (Arroyo) knows what's going on in the minds of the justices," Teodoro said. ***With reports from Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia Balana***

How Ping will be arrested

From page A1

tainee, Berroya said, adding:

"He should be handcuffed to keep him from resisting arrest. But then Lacson is not capable of doing that."

A "reasonable amount of force" should be used in case the senator's men stand in the way of authorities, Berroya said.

According to Gil, the Criminal Investigation Detection Group will do the job if the PNP is tapped to carry out the arrest.

Archenemy

The CIDG is headed by Lacson's archenemy, Director Eduardo Matillano. But he went on leave immediately after the bloody aborted jailbreak at Camp Crame on Tuesday.

A member of the team of PNP officers and National Bureau of Investigation operatives tapped to prepare for the arrest said Lacson would first be asked to surrender. If he does not, the arresting officers will step in, the source said.

Detention cell

In the event of his arrest, the senator will be detained at the PNP Special Action Force facility in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, or at the new custodial center in Camp Crame, Gil said.

If he is held at Camp Crame, he will join the PNP's most dangerous inmates, including the four suspected Abu Sayyaf members who allegedly bombed Zamboanga City in October last year.

But Berroya, who, like Matillano, has been at odds with Lacson, said the correctional institute for women in Mandaluyong would be "the safest jail" for the senator.

Berroya said that while the facility was only for female convicts, a special arrangement could be made with the court to detain Lacson there.

Destabilization

Lacson's arrest became a possibility after the Supreme Court ordered on Tuesday the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng multiple-murder case in which the senator and 33 police officers stand accused.

Citing intelligence reports submitted to the CSG, Berroya said the senator's camp had planned a "destabilization effort" as early as Saturday purportedly to jump the gun on the high court's upcoming ruling.

In a separate CSG report, Berroya said Lacson's supporters were organizing a massive protest action to prevent his arrest.

Red

"They're planning what they call an Edsa IV," Berroya claimed. "But I don't think the public would be a fool to heed their call."

Reports of an upcoming rally circulated in text messages the other night, urging the public to join Lacson's war against corruption.

"The messages say that red is the color of the campaign," Berroya said. "But we should not forget that red is also the color of the blood of the Kuratong Baleleng suspects" whom Lacson and his men supposedly killed.

Surveillance

If an NBI insider is to be believed, the world is getting smaller for Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino, Lacson's lieutenants and co-accused.

The insider said the bureau was only waiting for the arrest warrants for the two men before coordinating with its foreign counterparts.

"We know where [Mancao and Aquino] are," the insider said. "They have been monitored in the United States and Canada. They are changing location periodically, but they are under constant surveillance."

Earlier, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said he had received reports that Aquino was able to obtain a student visa, and Mancao, a working visa.

"If it will be proven that the two used visas, they will be extradited. If not, they will be deported," the insider said.

The NBI has sought the help of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security in tracking down the two fugitives.

Mancao and Aquino reportedly left the country after being implicated in the murder of public relations man Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver Manuel Corbito. ***With a report from Leila B. Salaverria***

Mind your case first, Mike A lawyer tells Ping

THE LAWYER of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo yesterday suggested that Sen. Panfilo Lacson give priority to the Kuratong Baleleng case rather than his "Incredible Hulk" exposé.

In a press conference at the LTA Building in Makati City, Jesus Santos said that as a lawyer, he believed the multiple-murder case was "more serious."

"I think the more serious cases should be given attention and priority, and not accusations that he [Lacson] has yet to prove by presenting solid and credible evidence," Santos said.

The lawyer also said the prosecution in the Kuratong Baleleng case had some eight witnesses who were ready to testify to the supposed involvement of Lacson and ranking police officers in the alleged rubout of 11 suspected bank robbers in 1995.

"According to the evidence presented by lawyers led by Arno Sanidad, the case of murder is very, very strong," Santos said. "He [Lacson] can go to jail because of the strong evidence of the prosecution." ***Alcuin Papa***

Uh-oh, say it ain't . . .

From page A1

versial Report-A-Mistress campaign, Sen. Ralph Recto was seen in this town with someone believed to be a guest relations officer from the infamous Pegasus nightclub in Quezon City.

According to witnesses, the two had been on a cruise on the senator's yacht last Friday and Saturday. At one point, the yacht docked at one of the town's ports.

The senator, who may be better known as the husband of actress-turned-Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto, frequents an exclusive resort in this town, where he and some of his friends are members.

Confidentiality

Yesterday, the Citizens Battle Against Corruption submitted its first "Report-A-Mistress" list of public officials to the Department of Justice, for possible prosecution. But when asked whether Recto was included in the list, as a source had told the INQUIRER, Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin refused to comment, citing confidentiality.

Mayor Vi, as the popular actress is now widely known, was studiously silent. Emeline, the mayor's sister and personal assistant, who used to answer all queries for the mayor, refused to answer the calls and text messages of the INQUIRER.

In Lipa, an INQUIRER source and close relative of the Rectos defended the senator.

"Ralph was with Mayor Vi all weekend. In fact, they even watched the Sergio Mendes concert together. And Ralph is not the kind to go on a cruise with a GRO. He is very much married and a very responsible senator," the source said.

Lokin and fellow Cibac Rep. Joel Villanueva jointly handed over the list and the documents supporting the allegations to Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

Lokin refused to reveal the identities of those on the list because of Cibac's earlier promise to treat the investigation of the matter with utmost confidentiality.

She said there was a need to protect both the name of the complainants and the public officials being complained of to prevent abuse and unnecessary negative publicity against them.

Datumanong assured the two congressmen that the department will do its best to help in the prosecution of cases against officials and employees. Keeping a mistress would be a violation of Republic Act No. 6713, the Code of Ethical Standards for Public Officials.

Datumanong designated Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida to head a panel to evaluate the complaints. Lokin said the "Report-A-Mistress" project provides the public a venue for reporting immoral conduct by public officials.

Lokin and Villanueva will meet with Chairman Dario Rama of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo next week to discuss the complaints.

The resort is a much sought-after hideaway, because it is highly exclusive and very private.

Lacson admits it has been 'one hell of a week'

From page A1

speech "at a time when I am going through one hell of a week."

Lacson also said he received information more than a week ago that Malacañang supposedly knew of the Supreme Court ruling and was allegedly preparing for his eventual arrest.

Security precaution

At the House, Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said Lacson was not in hiding but was merely taking security precautions because of a threat on his life.

Padilla said his group in the House had received reports that Lacson would be killed once he is arrested and put in jail.

"Don't ask our group where we got our information, but it is our honest feeling that there is an actual threat to his life. That's the problem. We're not sure *kung bubuhayin pa siya* (if he will be left alive)," Padilla said.

But at the Supreme Court, Assistant Court Administrator Ismael Khan Jr. assailed Lacson for alleging that the tribunal was in cahoots with Malacañang when it dismissed Lacson's motion that it reconsider its earlier decision to reopen the multiple-murder case.

Khan said Lacson was out to tarnish the high court's reputation just because he did not get a favorable ruling. "This could be part of a concerted effort to undermine the integrity of the judiciary," Khan said.

Flowers and letters

Lacson's whereabouts may be unknown, but his staff in the Senate has been receiving various forms of support for him.

At the hall leading to his office are displayed flowers and letters, mostly coming from bank employees, teachers, students and organizations.

The letter writers expressed support for Lacson and his exposé of the alleged corrupt activities of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband Jose Miguel Arroyo, as well as belief in his innocence in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

Noise barrage

And to show their disapproval of the Supreme Court ruling, Lacson's supporters are planning to hold daily and nationwide noise barrages starting today, according to Jane Rivero, the senator's executive secretary.

Rivero said a noise barrage would be held twice a day, at 7:30-8 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m.

In his speech before the Finex, Lacson said his life had never been stressful.

"Only when I decided to run for senator in October 2001 was every conceivable crime and accusation been leveled at me," he said.

The senator said he had given thought to giving up, and suggested to the business executives that their companies hire him as a security consultant.

His family will be happy if he "fades into such obscurity," he said, but added: "Yet I am neither old nor one to give up."

Lacson pledged to his audience that if he were elected president, the first thing he would do on Day One was to sign a waiver of "all my rights, and that of my family, too, from protection of the Bank Secrecy Law."

He said he would ask his Cabinet members and heads of government corporations to do the same.

On the run?

But Representatives Augusto Syjuco of Iloilo and Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City said Lacson should show up to disprove reports that he was trying to evade arrest.

"Is Ping on the run? I'm sure he has not joined the ranks of fugitive Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, [Osama] Bin Laden, or Saddam Hussein," Syjuco said.

Puentevella said Lacson should not go into hiding because the long arm of the law would catch up with him.

"Senator Lacson has nothing to fear if he is not guilty," said Puentevella. "He has no reason to hide. But if he hides, that's another story."

Respect SC

Puentevella said the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case would give Lacson a chance to prove his innocence and clear his name, especially because he had declared his intention to run for president in 2004.

Commenting on Lacson's statement that the high court's ruling was politically motivated, Puentevella said the senator had to respect the tribunal because it was "the last bulwark for giving justice for all."

Instead of attributing political color to the ruling, Lacson and his co-accused should face the charges like a man, the lawmaker said.

Syjuco said Lacson's absence could mean that he was gearing for new allegations against the Macapagal administration: "He is just psyching up for his next series of Lola Basyang tales."

But Syjuco expressed the belief that Lacson would face up to the legal process and the duly constituted authority.

"After all, he has been a law enforcement officer most of his life, and now a lawmaker. Besides, he has no choice," Syjuco added.

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) said it would continue to support Lacson as a possible presidential candidate and his crusade against graft and corruption.

Strong option

The statement was made by Rep. Agapito Aquino, LDP secretary general, who added: "As far as we are concerned, Senator Lacson is still very much a strong option for the LDP and the united opposition as its standard-bearer in the May 2004 elections. Nothing has changed despite this new development at the Supreme Court."

At the same time, Aquino expressed alarm over what he called the deteriorating credibility of the Supreme Court, as supposedly shown by recent events indicating its alleged bias toward the administration.

He said that the high court was now composed mainly of Macapagal appointees and that it was under heavy criticism not only for its supposedly questionable decisions but also alleged fund misuse.

No basis in fact

In reacting to Lacson's accusation against the Supreme Court, Khan pointed out that the senator had not even answered the challenge of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. for him to name the two justices who were allegedly among the frequent callers of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in his office at the LTA building in Makati City.

Davide had said Lacson should substantiate his allegations of corruption with evidence.

"It only goes to prove that they remain mere allegations and have no basis in fact," Khan said.

He also said there was "no truth" to Lacson's allegation that the tribunal bowed to pressure from the Palace to revive the Kuratong Baleleng case.

Impervious

"The court always decides its cases independently. [The justices] are immune and impervious to pressure, including death threats," Khan added.

Justice Romeo Callejo Sr., author of the Tuesday ruling on the Kuratong Baleleng case, received a funeral wreath before the ruling was issued. Lacson denied sending it.

Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, a critic of Lacson, also said the senator should stop attacking the high court.

"He's going after an institution already. He's showing that he does not believe in the rule of law when he's blaming the court just because he did not get a favorable decision," Corpus said.

The Filipino Lawyers for Good Governance Inc. (Filgood) also called on Lacson to help preserve "law and order" by complying with the tribunal's ruling.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Secure your backyards, lawmen told

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

TWO DAYS after a suspected Abu Sayyaf member grabbed the gun of his police escort and went on to kill three lawmen out to subdue him, the National Capital Region Police Office issued a memorandum reminding lawmen to secure their respective stations and detachments.

NCRPO officials yesterday urged policemen in the metropolis to come up with measures .to maintain order and ensure the security of their own police offices.

On Tuesday, a top-security inmate managed to grab the firearm of his escort and killed at least three policemen, and wounded three others right inside the headquarters of the Philippine National Police in Camp Crame.

The three-hour hostage drama ended when suspected Abu Sayyaf member Buyungan Bungkak himself was killed.

In the Oct. 8 memorandum, NCRPO officials cited two incidents last month where two police stations in remote towns in Ilocos Sur and Masbate were attacked.

Yesterday afternoon, Caloocan City Police chief Benjardi Mantele met with the city's station commanders to discuss, among other subjects, the security measures police stations could adapt.

In response to the order, the police chief told the INQUIRER yesterday they would boost their intelligence work and intensify their security measures especially in handling firearms.

He added that discipline among policemen was also vital in maintaining order and security inside stations.

City police deputy chief Victor Ronquillo also said policemen should always be on alert, even when they are inside their respective headquarters.

Police officials also called on the public to help the police force by reporting suspicious elements.

THOMAS Sarmiento (left) and Nadzal Ladja fill up forms before they are transferred from their Camp Crame cell to a new detention facility. Sarmiento has been implicated in the Bobby Dacer murder case while Ladja is a suspect in the Zamboanga bombing.

JOAN BONDOC

NBI files rape charges vs ranking SAF official

By Tina Santos

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation on Thursday filed rape charges against a ranking official of the national police's Special Action Force.

NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco recommended the filing of rape charges against Senior Insp. Fernando Ortega, head of the SAF unit assigned to the House of Representatives in Quezon City.

In a letter to the Quezon City prosecutor, Wycoco cited the findings of Niven Canlapan, a member of the NBI's AntiHuman Trafficking Division who investigated the rape complaint filed by a 20-year-old woman.

The woman worked for Ortega as a nanny, taking care of his younger son. She claimed Ortega had raped her four times.

Ortega could not be reached for comment. A member of his staff had told the INQUIRER that Ortega had gone to the SAF Brigade headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

The victim told NBI investigators that when Ortega's wife left the house on July 17, 2003, the SAF official raped her for the first time.

The complainant said Ortega first ordered his son to play outside the house before he sexually assaulted her that afternoon.

She said she did not immediately reveal her ordeal to anyone, fearing that Ortega would kill her and her family.

She said Ortega raped her again on July 20 and July 29.

In a sworn statement, the victim said that she was about to lodge a complaint against Ortega after the third incident, but she later changed her mind.

It was only after she was raped the fourth time on Aug. 20 that she finally mustered the courage to reveal her ordeal to her elder sister, who accompanied her in filing the complaint.

METROBRIEFS

Fearless when drunk

CARPENTER Reynaldo Bagtas yesterday was locked up after he challenged a lawman to a fight inside a police station in Marikina City. "This guy was very brave last night, he wanted to fight everyone," said P01 Ronel Agsawa of the San Roque precinct. "Now that he is sober, he looks like a wet chick." Bagtas, 28, of Munding Avenue, San Roque, was invited for questioning after he broke the window of his cousin's house around midnight Wednesday. But at the station, the drunken Bagtas became rowdy and challenged P01 Rey Juntanilla to a fist fight, police said. Before Juntanilla could say no, Bagtas was already all over the officer. Behind bars and no longer drunk, Bagtas yesterday blamed the brandy for the mess he's in. *Luige del Puerto*

Sisters slain

NESTOR Ramirez on Tuesday was said to be under the influence of illegal drugs when he stabbed to death his wife, Mariza, and her sister, Marife Venial, in Quezon City. Mariza 40, a midwife, and Venial, 26, a nurse, were overseas Filipino workers who had just returned home from abroad. Witnesses told police that they heard the couple arguing at about 10 p.m. inside their house in Don Antonio Heights, Barangay Holy Spirit. The witnesses said that the wife had accused Ramirez, 50, of squandering the money she had sent him from abroad. When Ramirez lost his temper, he stabbed Mariza. He also attacked Venial when she reportedly went to her sister's rescue. Police are now looking for Ramirez. *Tina Santos*

Siege in Taytay

THREE brothers on Wednesday afternoon lay siege to the Taytay, Rizal house of a family with whom they have a feud. Armed with bolos, the Berden siblings—Oscar, 25, Larry, 19, and Wilson, 23—stormed the Belo residence in Lupang Arienda, Barangay San Juan, and stabbed the matriarch, Alicia Belo, police said. She is now fighting for her life, SP01 Dario Miranda said. Oscar and Larry are now in police custody, while Wilson remains at large. Police said the brothers began stoning the Belo residence at around 4 p.m. When Alicia and her husband Antonio came out of the house to shoo them away, the brothers attacked them. Witnesses said it was Larry who stabbed the woman. *Luige del Puerto*

Kilosbayan forum

FORMER Supreme Court Justice Isagani A. Cruz and Pulse Asia Head Prof. Felipe Miranda will be the guest speakers at the Kilosbayan Forum today at 2 p.m., at the Ateneo Law School, Rockwell Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City. According to Kilosbayan President Jovito R. Salonga, Cruz will discuss the Overseas Absentee Voting Act, while Miranda will speak on the latest political developments and the Pulse Asia Survey. Kilosbayan leaders Ambassador Sedfrey Ordoñez and former Civil Service Commission Chair Corazon Alma de Leon will lead the open forum following the speeches.

MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC.
Yuchengco Building, 500 Quintin Paredes St., Binondo, Manila

TEXT-INSURE PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE POLICY

WHEREAS. The MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC. (hereinafter referred to as the "Company") agrees to provide for the eligible person described hereto in Section I, an accident insurance coverage for a period of twenty four (24) hours beginning on the date and time confirmed electronically by the Company, through an electronic commerce transaction hereby referred to as TEXT INSURE whereby the mobile phone user (hereinafter referred to as the "Insured") may apply for, purchase, and confirm their insurance coverage through the use of the text message capabilities of their mobile phones;

WHEREAS the Insured described in the Personal Information Sheet hereby attached and made an integral part of this Policy, being desirous of insuring himself in the manner referred to as TEXT INSURE, has registered with and purchased his insurance via TEXT INSURE and has declared truthfully and completely, and personally signed the said Personal Information Sheet which declaration it is agreed shall be the basis of the contract for the insurance hereby intended to be made and incorporated herein;

NOW THIS POLICY OF INSURANCE WITNESSETH that at any time during the said period wherein the Insured is covered by a validly purchased TEXT INSURE insurance, or during any subsequent period for which the Company may agree to renew the insurance, the Insured shall sustain bodily injury caused by violent accidental external and visible means which injury shall result in his death or disablement as hereinafter defined, the Company will, subject to the terms, provisos and conditions of and endorsed on this Policy, pay to the Insured or the person or persons specified in Proviso 3 the sum or sums of money specified in the Table of Benefits.

TABLE OF BENEFITS

BODILY INJURY caused by violent accidental external and visible means which injury shall result in:

1. Death occurring within twelve calendar months of bodily injury as aforesaid.
2. Permanent Disablement occurring within twelve calendar months of bodily injury as aforesaid and not followed within twelve calendar months of said bodily injury by the death of the Insured.

(Limit of Php 500,000 coverage at any one time regardless of the number of purchases)

TABLE OF COMPENSATION

COVERAGES	BENEFITS
Accidental Death	100%
Permanent loss of or loss of use of	
• Both hands or both feet	100%
• One hand and one foot	100%
• One hand or foot and sight of one eye	100%
• Sight of both eyes	100%
• One hand or one foot or sight of one eye	50%

Any bodily injury or disablement not specified above shall not be covered by this policy.

"Loss" as above used with reference to hand or foot means complete severance at or above the wrist or ankle respectively, and as used with reference to eyes, means total and irrecoverable loss of sight. If the Insured shall sustain more than one of such losses as a result of one accident, payment of the amounts shall be made only for that one loss for which the largest amount is payable. Losses sustained as a result of any subsequent accidents shall be considered for payment separately from and independently of other losses sustained in a previous accident. In any policy period, the aggregate amount payable under the Accidental Disablement Benefit with respect to any one or more accidents shall not exceed P 500,000. The amount of benefit payable for loss of life arising from independent, unrelated accident shall always be P 500,000 regardless of the amount(s) paid under the Accidental Disablement Benefit.

ACCUMULATION LIMIT

It is hereby understood that Ps 200,000,000.00 is the limit of indemnity for which the Company shall be liable under TEXT INSURE insurance for all the losses arising out of any one accident. In the event said limit of indemnity for any one accident is insufficient to pay the full amount of indemnity for each insured person, then the amount payable to each insured person shall be in proportion to the limit of indemnity for any one accident bears to the total amount of insurance that would have been payable.

I. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for insurance coverage:

1. The individual must be registered with and purchase his insurance via TEXT INSURE
2. The individual must be 18 to 65 years of age at the time of the insurance purchase
3. The individual must purchase his insurance coverage while within the Philippines
4. The individual must not purchase his insurance while in transit, i.e. in the process of traveling from one place to another, or in any location between the point of origin and the intended destination
5. The individual must not belong to the occupations listed under Section II – Exclusions
6. The individual must not be suffering from any physical disability or critical illness.

II. EXCLUSIONS

1. The Policy shall not apply to the following occupations: acrobats, aircrew, airport maintenance, ambulance personnel, artists engaged in hazardous activities, asylum attendants, blasting, boiler, construction, demolition, and exterior building workers, detective, divers, film cameramen, firemen, fishermen, loggers, manufacturers/makers of ammunition, firework and explosives, military personnel, miners, news reporters/photographers whilst on duty, oil rig workers, paramedics, persons working at heights, policemen, politicians, professional drivers, professional sportsmen/women, quarry workers, sawmill workers, seamen, security guards, stevedores, structural steel workers, stuntmen, underground/underwater workers, workers of amusement/fairground, circus, zoo and wildlife parks,
2. The Policy shall not cover the disappearance of the Insured nor shall it extend to cover death or disablement by or happening through: a) bacterial infections (except pyogenic infections which shall occur through an accidental cut or wound) or infections caused by parasites; or b) medical or surgical treatment (except such as may be necessary solely by reason of injuries covered by this policy); c) miscarriage or pregnancy; d) suicide, self inflicted injury, or any attempt thereat; e) murder and assault, or any attempt thereat; f) war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities, or warlike operations (whether war be declared or not), mutiny, strikes, riots, civil commotion, civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, conspiracy, military or usurped power, quarantine,; g) nuclear radiation or radioactive contamination; h) while participating in professional athletics or any organized and scheduled amateur physical contact sport; i) while engaging in but not limited to mountaineering requiring the use of ropes and guides, skin diving employing the use of compressed air cylinders, racing on wheels or horseback, skydiving from device for aerial navigation, hang gliding; j) cave in of mines; k) while under the influence of drug or alcohol; l) while committing or attempting to commit any crime, felony or other illegal act; m) while traveling in an aircraft other than one licensed for public passenger service and operated by a regular airline or a published scheduled flight over a regular air route between two definitely established airports and in which the Insured is traveling as a ticket holding passenger.

III. PROVISOS

1. Any fraud, misrepresentation, misstatement, or concealment in respect of this insurance, whether in electronic or in written form, of any claim shall render this Policy null and void and any benefit shall be forfeited.
2. Compensation shall be payable only when the entire amount of the claim shall have been ascertained and proven to the satisfaction of the company.
3. Indemnities for loss of life of the Insured is payable to the beneficiary indicated herein, if surviving the Insured, and otherwise to the estate of the Insured. All other indemnities of this policy are payable to the Insured. The receipt of such person or persons shall in all respect be an effective discharge to the Company.

IV. CONDITIONS

1. The insurance coverage shall commence upon confirmation by the Company, via text messages to the Insured, of all valid TEXT INSURE application and purchases. The confirmation text message will indicate the date and time of the commencement of the 24-hour insurance coverage and a unique Certificate of Coverage Number for every particular TEXT INSURE purchase.
2. This Policy, unless otherwise renewed, will have a fixed term of 24 hours. The insurance coverage shall terminate in the event of accidental death as provided therein, otherwise the Policy will automatically terminate after 24 hours from the date and time indicated in the confirmation text message sent by the Company to the Insured.
3. The Insured, at his option and subject to the terms and conditions herein, may renew his insurance coverage at any time by purchasing, via TEXT INSURE, another 24-hour insurance coverage. The Insured can only renew his insurance coverage once for every 24-hour period This Policy is automatically renewed, without the need for re-application, every time the Company accepts and confirms the TEXT INSURE purchase.
4. This Policy includes the electronic TEXT INSURE text messages sent by the Insured to the Company and the attached Personal Information Sheet, and contains the entire contract of insurance. None of the provisions, conditions, and terms of this Policy shall be waived or altered except by endorsement, signed or initialed by an authorized official of the Company and issued in accordance with the provisions of Section 50 of the Insurance Code.
5. Written notice of injury on which claim may be based must be given to the Company within thirty days after the date of accident causing the injury. In the event of death, immediate notice thereof must be given to the Company.
6. Such notice given by or in behalf of the Insured, or beneficiary as the case may be, to the Company, at the City of Manila, or to any authorized agent of the Company, with particulars sufficient to identify the Insured, shall be deemed to be notice to the Company. Failure to give notice within the time provided in this Policy shall not invalidate any claim if it can be shown not to have been reasonably possible to give such notice and that notice was given as soon as reasonably possible.
7. The Company, upon receipt of such notice, will furnish to the claimant such forms as are usually furnished by it for filing proofs of loss. If such forms are not furnished within thirty days after its receipt of such notice, the claimant shall be deemed to have complied with the requirements of this Policy as to proof of loss upon submitting within the time fixed in the Policy for filing proofs of loss or written proof covering the occurrence, character and extent of the loss for which claim is made.
8. Affirmative proof of loss must be furnished to the Company at its said offices in case of claim for loss within ninety days after submission of notice referred to in No.5.
9. All certificates, information and evidence required by the Company shall be furnished at the expense of the Insured or the Insured's legal personal representatives and shall be in such form and of such nature as the Company may prescribe. The Insured as often as required shall submit to medical examination on behalf of the Company at its own expense in respect of any alleged bodily injury. The Company shall in case of the death of the Insured be entitled to have a post mortem examination at its own expense. The Insured shall as soon as possible after the occurrence of any injury obtain and follow the advice of a duly qualified medical practitioner and the Company shall not be liable for any consequences arising by reason of the Insured's failure to obtain or follow such advice and use such appliances or remedies as may be prescribed.
10. The Company shall have the right and opportunity to examine the person of an Insured when and as often it may reasonably require during the pendency of claim hereunder, and the right and opportunity to make an autopsy in case of death where it is not forbidden by law.
11. The amount of any claim under this Policy for which the Company may be liable shall be paid within thirty days after proof of loss is received by the Company and ascertainment of the loss is made either by agreement between the Insured and the Company or by arbitration; but if such ascertainment is not had or made within sixty days after such receipt by the Company of the proof of loss, then the claim shall be paid within ninety days after such receipt. Refusal or failure to pay the claim within the time prescribed by the Monetary Board, unless such failure or refusal to pay is based on the ground that the claim is fraudulent.
12. All differences as to the amount of any loss arising out of this Policy shall be referred to the decision of an Arbitrator to be appointed by the parties in difference, or if they cannot agree upon a single arbitrator, to the decision of two arbitrators, one to be appointed in writing by each of the parties within thirty (30) days after having been required to do so by either of the parties, and in case of disagreement of the arbitrators, to the decision of an umpire to be appointed in writing by the arbitrators before entering upon the reference. The making of an award shall be a condition precedent to any right of action against the Company. If a claim be made and rejected and an action or suit be not commenced within twelve (12) months after due notice of the award made by the arbitrator or arbitrators or umpire, then the claim shall for all the purpose be deemed to have abandoned and shall not thereafter be recoverable hereunder.
13. No assignment of interest under this Policy shall be binding upon the Company unless and until the original or duplicate thereof is filed at a branch or the home office of the Company. The Company does not assume any responsibility to the validity of any assignment. No change of beneficiary under this Policy shall bind the Company unless consent thereto is formally endorsed hereon by the Company.
14. It is hereby declared and agreed that the provisions of Article 1250 of the Civil Code of the Philippines (R.A. 386) which reads: "In case an extraordinary inflation or deflation of the currency stipulated should supervene, the value of the currency at the time of the obligation shall be the basis of payment. " shall not apply in determining the extent of liability under the provisions of this Policy.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The Insurance Commissioner, with offices in Manila, Cebu and Davao, is the government official in charge of faithful execution and the enforcement of all laws relating to insurance and has supervision over insurance companies. The Commissioner is ready at all times to render assistance in settling any controversy between an Insurance Company and a Policyholder relating to insurance matters.

In Witness Whereof, MALAYAN INSURANCE CO., INC. has caused this Policy to be signed by its duly authorized officer in the City of Manila, Philippines.

Yvonne S. Yuchengco
President

PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET

Keep this policy, it will be required for insurance claims. NO SIGNED POLICY, NO CLAIMS.

Name	
Address	
Date of Birth	Date of Registration
Occupation	Beneficiary
Mobile Phone #	Passport #

I hereby warrant that I am not suffering from any physical disability or critical illness.

Signature

Alias

Date

ORPHANS
The children of PO2 Arvin Garces, one of three policemen slain on Tuesday by an Abu Sayyaf man attempting to escape, may be wondering what will become of them now that their father is about to be laid to rest. JOAN BONDOC

2 NBI men nabbed for extortion

By Edson Tandoc Jr.
and Leila Salaverria

TWO National Bureau of Investigation agents were arrested the other day for allegedly extorting about P300,000 from a rice dealer.

Special Investigator IV Rodrigo Mapoy and Special Investigator III Don Emmanuel Regulario, both of the NBI's Criminal Investigation Division, were arrested on Wednesday during an entrapment operation inside an upscale hotel in Manila, according to a report from the National Capital Region Police Office.

The arrest came after the NCRPO Regional Intelligence Division Counter Intelligence Special Unit received a complaint from businessman Pocholo Matias, who had accused the NBI agents of extortion.

The NCRPO lawmen coordinated with their counterparts in the NBI in setting the trap for the two suspects.

At 3 p.m. Wednesday, Matias met with Mapoy and Regulario at the lobby of the Century Park Hotel on Vito Cruz, Manila.

The NCRPO report said Matias then handed Mapoy a white envelope containing P300,000 marked money.

Mapoy then gave the envelope to Regulario.

When the two were about to leave, the NBI and NCRPO officers arrested the suspects and recovered the marked money.

In a phone interview, Mapoy told the INQUIRER that Matias' allegations were not true.

However, Mapoy refused to give a lengthy interview and just said that he was denying the allegations.

Mapoy led a team of NBI men to inspect a huge warehouse Matias was leasing in Valenzuela City more than a month ago.

During the inspection, Mapoy's team found 230,000 sacks of rice, 130,000 of which were alleged to have been smuggled.

Matias earlier denied that the sacks of rice were smuggled and told the INQUIRER he had the necessary documents.

Mapoy and Regulario are facing charges of extortion filed before the Manila Prosecutor's Office, the NCRPO said.

According to a ranking NBI official, the arrest dealt a serious blow to the bureau.

He said it came on the heels of a botched operation to arrest a man the NBI thought was Eduardo "Boy Muslim" Iran, wanted for the 1986 murder of Antique Gov. Evelio Javier.

The arrested man turned out to be a completely different person altogether, according to NBI fingerprint experts.

In the same operation, the NBI men accidentally shot a woman resident of Caloocan City.

Security man out to answer nature's call injures 4

A SECURITY guard on Wednesday allegedly shot four Makati residents, including two minors, when he accidentally dropped his shotgun just as he was about to relieve himself.

According to SPO1 Lewelie Cristobal of the Makati Police, Marlon Bacaron, 28, of Flagstar Security Agency, had just finished his shift outside the Guadalupe Bliss Building at around 6 p.m., and was in a hurry to go to the bathroom when he accidentally dropped his shotgun that went off, hitting 4 people.

Janeth Macaraig, 5, Camille Millonte, 16, Roberto Macaraig, 23, and Joel Peñafiel, 21, all residents of Guadalupe Bliss Phase 3, Barangay Cembo, Makati City, were taken to the Ospital ng Makati.

Bacaron told the INQUIRER that he placed his shotgun by his side, with the barrel pointing up. But the gun slid off and hit the ground, setting it off.

Bacaron is now detained at the Makati Police station. *Christine Paita*

How to stop thieves from stealing your car

By Luige del Puerto

CAR OWNERS need not fall prey to thieves.

Members of a police anticar theft unit yesterday revealed a simple trick to keep your car from getting stolen: Remove a small part of the car engine—an ignition coil, safety switch or the rotor—so that the vehicle would not start while the owner is away.

It could get messy—tinkering with your car engine every time you park your car in a dangerous place—but Insp. Norberto Liwag yesterday assured car owners that the trick is effective.

Liwag, head of Marikina City's anticar theft unit, said he used to take with him the safety switch of his car wherever he went.

"This way, you can park your car anywhere, and no car thief can get it," he said.

P03 James Abesamis, a member of the unit, said the thieves would have to buy the spare part from an auto shop to get the engine running.

Besides, he added, criminals would also need to buy the exact part to match the make or model of the car.

The authorities have also come up with a few more suggestions—now pasted on the wall of Liwag's office—to keep car thieves and hold-up men at bay.

They are:

- Avoid hitchhikers, especially beautiful women.
- Never leave your car windows open, especially during traffic jams.
- Never stay in your car while it is parked.
- Remove valuables inside the car before parking, so as not to tempt robbers.
- Install an alarm system whenever possible.
- Don't trust your car keys to strangers.

Liwag said the last part is very important. Based on his experience, Liwag said mechanics of auto repair shops are, most of the time, in cahoots with car thieves.

He said they could duplicate the car key, follow you, and strike when you least expect it.

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‘Mr. Excitement’ caught in the act

Ex-PBA cager denies pol’s claim

By Margaux Ortiz

ALVAREZ: Allegation hurting his family.

AN ASPIRING politician has filed a complaint before the Makati City Police after allegedly finding his wife in bed with a former popular basketball star inside their house in Magallanes Village early yesterday morning.

Paul "Bong" Alvarez, 35, known as Mr. Excitement in Philippine basketball, may soon be facing charges of adultery after the husband of his alleged lover, Sarah Lopez, 23, caught them "naked in bed."

Alvarez, however, denied having an affair with Sarah.

But according to Alfred Lopez, 26, of No. 28 Homonhon St., Barangay Magallanes, Makati City, he immediately recognized the basketball player when he checked on his wife upon arriving home with two friends around 4:30 a.m.

Lopez, who said he is a nephew of former Manila mayor Mel Lopez, said he came from a political meeting in Sampaloc, Manila, in preparation for the 2004 elections. He added that he has earlier declared his intention to run as a councilor in Manila's fourth district.

Lopez said that when he went to the master bedroom, he found his wife and Alvarez.

Lopez said his wife immediately slammed the door and poked a kitchen knife at him when he managed to pry the door open.

Lopez said Sarah accidentally stabbed one of his friends, Bernard Robles, on the left wrist while Robles was pacifying the couple.

Lopez added that when he saw his two children—Alyssa, 4, and Brandon, 3—looking down at the ruckus from the second floor of the house, he decided to call the village security guard and wait outside.

But Lopez said Sarah and Alvarez managed to sneak inside the Lopezes' blue Ford Expedition (CPD-481), and escaped by crashing into the village guard's L-300 van parked outside the gate.

Lopez added that Alvarez left his silver Honda CRV (XKY-288) behind when the suspects took off with the two Lopez children.

Lopez, who owns a bar in Makati, said he has heard talks about the affair going on between Alvarez and his wife three months ago.

"But I decided to ignore the rumors because I trusted my wife and I was preoccupied with my business," Lopez told reporters.

Through his agent Danny Espiritu, Alvarez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that he and Sarah came from a party the other night.

He explained that when they reached Quiapo, he asked a friend, Bong Aragon, to take a drunk Sarah home using his vehicle.

Alvarez said he stayed at a friend's house in Quiapo while waiting for Aragon to return.

Alvarez said his family, especially wife Almira Muhlach, is also hurting because of the accusation.

"Sarah also told Bong (Alvarez) that she and her husband have been living apart in the last six months," Espiritu said.

Alvarez also said that Lopez damaged his Honda CRV out of rage.

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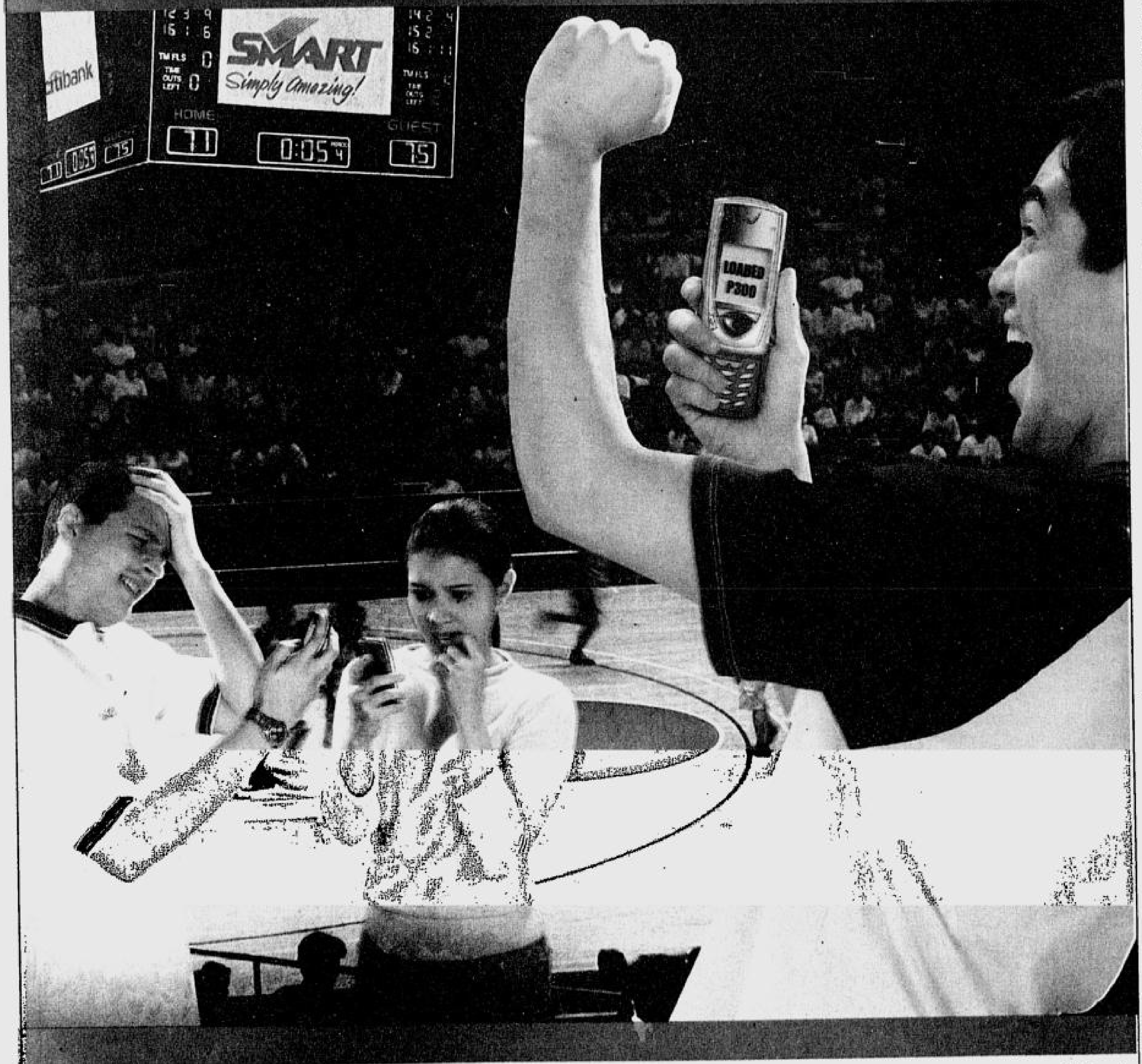

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Global police hotline set up

THERE'S now a global police hotline and database and the Philippines is part of it.

Called "Interpol 24-7", the 24-hour crime hotline was set up by the International Police to help solve and prevent crime.

The Philippines is one of the 182 countries hooked up to this communication system, which is also meant to help combat terrorism, among other crimes, said National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

He recently attended an Interpol convention in Spain along with NBI Interpol Chief lawyer Ricardo Diaz. The "I 24-7" hotline was one of the things discussed in the meeting.

Wycoco said the system would allow police officials to exchange information about the movement of criminals, especially terrorists.

Diaz, for his part, said: "We are going toward detection rather than investigation. The police would exchange 'actionable info' at once, like a known terrorist heading to another country to plan attacks. We want to stop them before they act." *Leila B. Salaverria*

LOTTO RESULTS

SUERTRES 7 1 1

SIX DIGIT (In exact order)
9 4 8 4 5 6

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
33 39 40 43 46 47

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25 PBA stars rue damaged memorabilia

FORMER Commissioner Bernardino presenting the MVP trophy to Patrimonio

SENATOR JAWORSKI: In other countries, they protect anything of historical significance. JESS YUSON

By June Navarro

SEN. Robert Jaworski yesterday expressed disappointment at the PBA's inability to return in good condition the memorabilia of players that were used in an exhibit three years ago.

Jaworski, along with 24 other players honored as the best in the league, lent the PBA their precious memorabilia which were left rotting in a secluded warehouse near Manila Bay.

The memorabilia, a collection of photographs, awards, plaques, trophies, sneakers, basketball jerseys and even diplomas, were used during the PBA's 25th anniversary celebrations in 2000 immortalizing the achievements of the 25 greatest players in the league.

"I feel sad about it. In other countries, people make effort to keep and maintain anything which has historical significance," Jaworski told the INQUIRER.

Among the 25 greatest PBA players are Ramon Fernandez, Bogs Adornado, Philip Cezar, Francis Arnaiz, Freddie Hubalde, Atoy Co, Danny Florencio, Bernie Fabiosa, Samboy Lim, Allan Caidic, Ricardo Brown, Manny Paner, Ronnie Magsanoc, Ato Agustin, Jojo Lastimosa and Lim Eng Beng.

"Some people are insensitive to other people's feelings. Other institutions falter but the accomplishment in sports lives on. *Siguro ibalik na lang nila ang lahat ng hiniram para ma-restore namin* (They should return all that they've borrowed so we can restore them)," said Jaworski.

Fernandez, a four-time MVP together with Alvin Patrimonio, also was dismayed upon learning that his memorabilia had not been taken care of.

"Now that most of the memorabilia were damaged, *ano pa ang maipapakita ko sa mga apo ko* (what will I show to my grandchildren)?" griped Fernandez during the PSA Forum Tuesday.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said the league will try to find out who should be blamed and to possibly sue the individuals responsible for the damages.

"As of now, there are a lot of fingerpointing so we still cannot identify the culprit behind this. What we're trying to do now is restore the damaged memorabilia and return them to the owners as soon as possible," said Eala.

The memorabilia were used in a series of mall tours around Metro Manila and in Davao and Cebu cities during the time of former PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino.

The PBA hired the Philippine Exhibit and Trade Corp. as custodian of the memorabilia, which were stored in a warehouse in Boom na Boom along Roxas Boulevard.

Sources said former PBA marketing chief Ronnie Poe had allocated a storage rental fee for the memorabilia but Petco's Edith Collado said the league's contract with Petco had already expired in 2000.

Hubalde had reportedly lost his MVP trophy, Magsanoc his trusty adidas sneakers while Caidic and Samboy Lim failed to recover their basketball jerseys.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by
Lorenzo Mangulat

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying; 12:55 p.m. (r-9 p.m.): Star Sports—It's all but a formality as Michael Shumacher has the drivers' title under his belt.

BASEBALL: MLB-ALCS Game #2; 8 a.m. (r-5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.)—The American League continues its best-of-seven battle for a trip to the World Series.

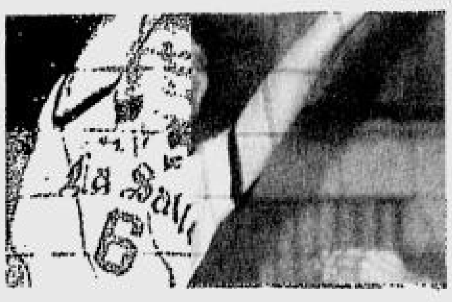
BASKETBALL: Lakers vs Pacers, Game 4, 2000 NBA Finals; 8 a.m. (r-7 p.m.): Solar Sports—Reggie Miller and Indiana try to stay alive against Shaquille O'Neal and Los Angeles.

Lakers vs Mavs, Game 4, 1984 Western Semifinals; 11 a.m. Solar Sports—Los Angeles, led by Kareem and Magic, assert their supremacy against Dallas, which is spearheaded by Mark Aguirre.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ La Salle slams volley foes /A27


■ Chicago ties Florida /A28

Basco survives Japanese; Arevalo also gains semis

UNSEEDED Michael Adrian Basco scored a 6-3, 6-4 upset win over sixth seed Japanese Ryoken Matsui yesterday to reach the boys' singles semifinals of the Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Basco was the only Filipino left after top seed Laurence Magaway bowed to seventh seed Lin Wei-Ting of Taiwan, 6-4, 6-3, Miguel

BASCO/ A28

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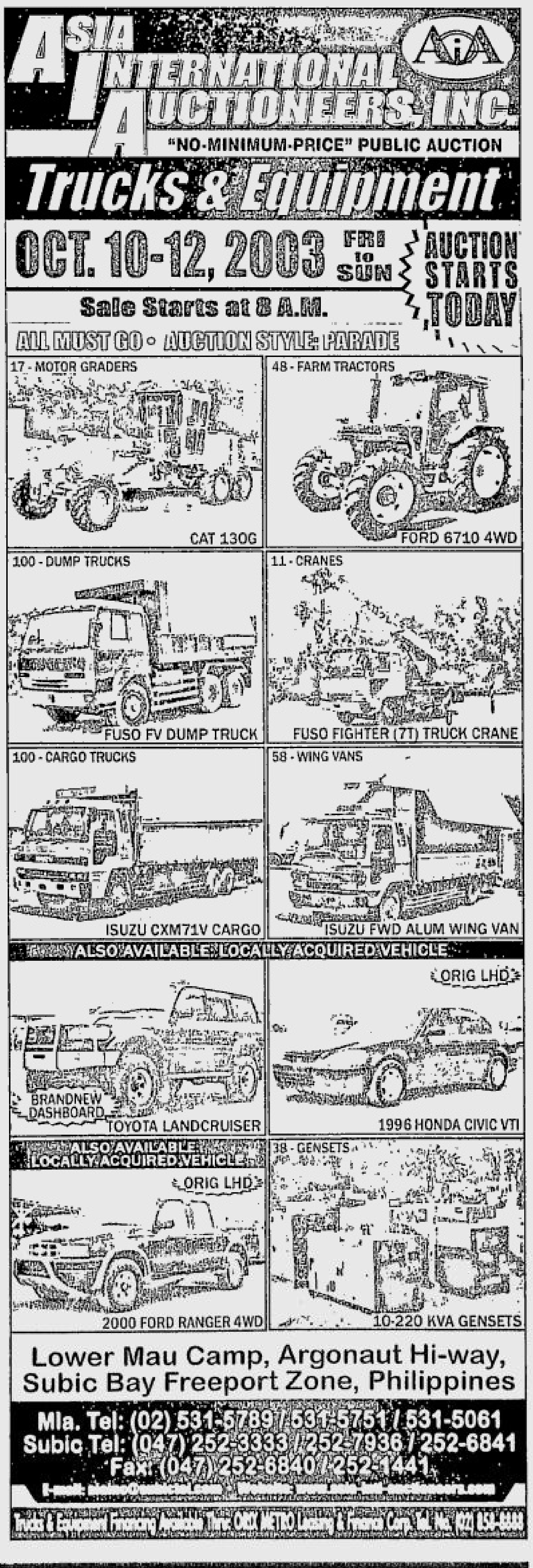
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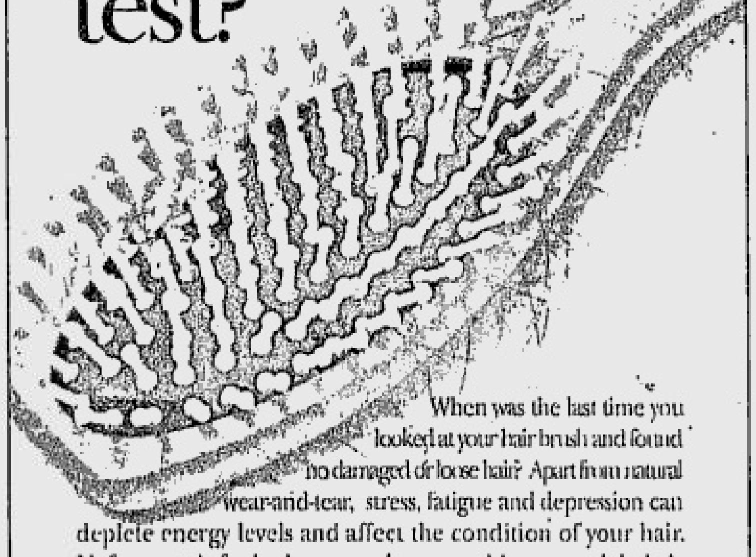
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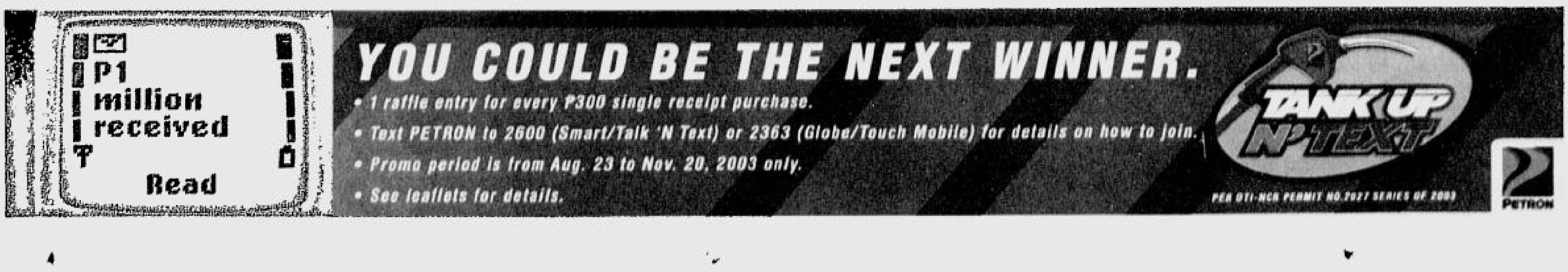
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PACQUIAO AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Bigger challenge up for Pacquiao

By Rey Danseco
Contributor

THE WINNER of the Manny Pacquiao-Marco Antonio Barrera fight on Nov. 15 at the Alamodome in San Antonio will challenge the World Boxing Council featherweight champion who will succeed Erik Morales on Oct. 12 in Manchester, England.

Clashing Thursday for the WBC title, which was given up by Morales with his decision to move up to the superfeatherweight division, are No. 1-ranked Chi Inji of South Korea and No. 2 Michael Brodie of Britain.

No date has been set when the interim champion would face the winner of the Pacquiao-Barrera contest.

Meanwhile, Juanito Rubillar, the top-ranking Filipino junior flyweight, has been scheduled to face No. 2 Erick Ortiz of Mexico, with the winner to challenge WBC champion Jorge "Travieso" Arce, also of Mexico.

Rubillar, who had failed in an earlier bid to dethrone Arce, holds the WBC International title while Ortiz is the Central American Boxing Federation champion in the same division.

These developments were announced yesterday by Emmanuel Flores, the only Filipino and one of only two Asian members of the powerful 15-man WBC ratings committee in an interview from Moscow, Russia.

Flores, the boxing division chief of the Games and Amusement Board (GAB), attended the general assembly meeting of the 41st Annual WBC Conventions at the Cosmos Hotel Wednesday, presided over by WBC president Jose Sulaiman.

The WBC has scheduled Morales' crack at the superfeatherweight crown of Jesus Chavez in February.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao and Barrera will be heading to San Antonio to attend the news conference that was set by Golden Promotions of Oscar De La Hoya.

Pacquiao, who holds the IBF 122-lb belt, and is considered one of the top two superbantamweights in the world along with WBC titlist Oscar Larios, is training in California under American trainer Freddie Roach.

Barrera, ranked No. 3 by WBC, is the universally recognized king of featherweights since defeating Naseem Hamed in 2001.

Tigers face Gin Kings; SLR taps Owens again

THE COCA-COLA Tigers, the league's hottest team, try to close in on the first quarterfinal slot when they collide against the skidding Barangay Ginebra Gin Kings today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

With a leading 7-1 win-loss record in Group B, the Tigers are heavily favored in the 5 p.m. game against the Gin Kings, who fell to 4-4 after dropping their last two games.

Group A campaigners FedEx (3-5) and San Miguel (2-6) tangle in the 7:30 p.m. main game.

If the Tigers hurdle the Gin Kings, they can clinch a quarterfinal berth with another win over the Shell Turbochargers in their next outing.

With their come-from-behind 95-93 conquest of the Sta. Lucia Realtors recently, the Tigers remain comfortably ahead of their closest pursuers, Red Bull Barako (6-2) and Talk 'N Text (6-3).

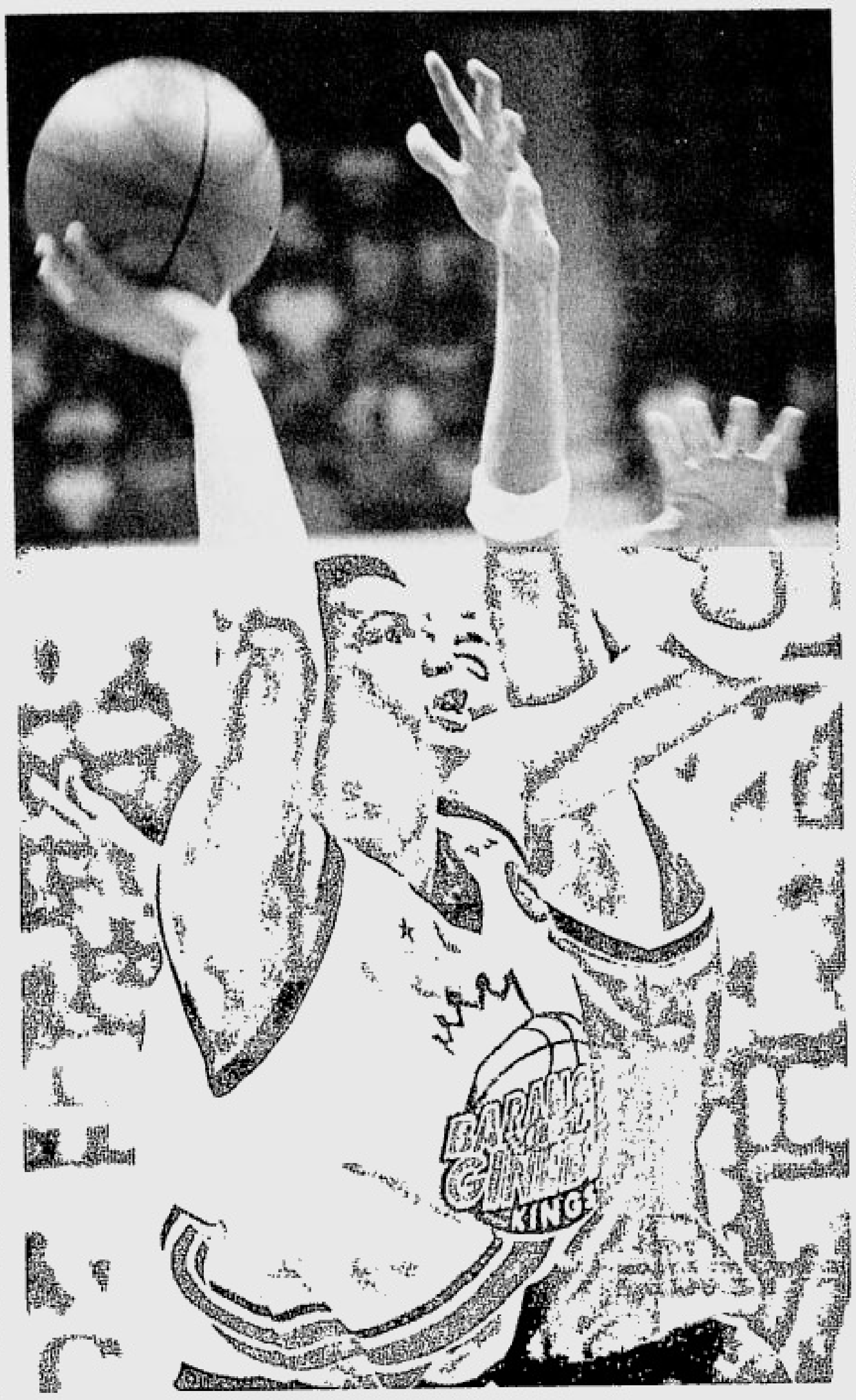
Sources said Ginebra import Ricky Price could be packing his things sooner than expected and would be replaced by former Coca-Cola import Roselle Ellis. But Ginebra officials remained mum on the issue.

Ellis, who saw action for the Tigers in the Governors Cup last season, is already in town as early as last week. The Tigers still have five days to sign up the power-playing import otherwise Ellis becomes a free agent.

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia Realty has replaced import Nate James with Damian Owens, who led the Realtors to the 2001 Governors Cup title, the franchise's first PBA crown since joining the league in 1993.

The Realtors show the way in Group A at 5-3 following their 92-85 win over Ginebra Wednesday. *June Navarro*

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Sta. Lucia	5	3
Alaska	3	4
FedEx	3	5
San Miguel	2	6
Purefoods	1	7
Group B		
Coca-Cola	7	1
Red Bull	6	2
Talk 'N Text	6	3
Ginebra	4	4
Shell	3	5



MAN TO WATCH: Ginebra forward Jun Limpot will have to step up to end the Gin King's alarming two-game slump. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

GAB silence deafening

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ONE good punch deserves another. In boxing, the 1-2 combination is one of the deadliest in the sport. Muhammad Ali was a master of that. So in the great Ali tradition, here I am again giving you a follow-up shot to yesterday's punch aimed at the GAB (Games and Amusements Board).

Not that GAB chairman Eduardo Villanueva hasn't called up to clear the air.

It's because there's one more point I need to discuss that is of equal import to the one discussed here yesterday. It is that Noli Flores, the GAB boxing chief, did not actually rule that two boxers must not fight twice within six months. What he had decreed was, both fighters cannot fight again until after the winner has fought another other than the last one he had beaten.

The catch is, there is no written rule on this. Again. Not even a GAB resolution to support it.

Thus, in effect, what we have here is nothing but a Flores rule. Again.

Is the GAB Flores and Flores the GAB?

For the record, Edgar Rodrigo dethroned Z Gorres on June 1 to win the Philippine flyweight title. The fight contract owned by promoter Moy Lainez said Rodrigo has to fight another rated fighter before he could fight Gorres again. Same with Gorres. In the contract, Rodrigo's fight options are owned by Lainez.

Gorres has complied. He had fought twice, knocking out Libradilla in the third round on Aug. 1, and Campacenio in the fifth round just very recently; the Gorres-Campacenio fight will be aired on RPN 9 this Sunday, Oct. 12, at 12 noon or thereabouts.

Meanwhile, Rodrigo hasn't fought since June 1. He had turned down an offer by Bebot Elorde to fight a rated pug for P30,000, the standard championship purse. In his usual altruistic demeanor, fight manager Rudy Salud upped the champion's purse to P50,000. Still, Rodrigo didn't bite. Which was rather weird as the Rodrigo-Gorres fight contract stipulated that Rodrigo, if he won, must fight within six months "if there was a willing promoter and a worthy challenger." Lainez, the fight promoter, was the willing promoter anew and Gorres, after having won twice by knockout, has regained his No. 1 ranking and is, therefore, a worthy challenger.

And then this bizarre turn of events.

Jun Sarreal, the long-time fight promoter, popped in from nowhere to snatch Rodrigo from Mira Murayama, the Japanese manager of Rodrigo. That was illegal as there was a live contract between Rodrigo and Murayama. For that, Sarreal could be sued for damages. Sarreal's defense that "Rodrigo came to me and I didn't lure him to come to me" doesn't wash. The fact that Sarreal knew that Rodrigo is under contract with Murayama was enough proof that Sarreal had acted in bad faith.

In the meantime, the rematch between Rodrigo and Gorres has been finally set for Dec. 13 in Subic, six months and 12 days to the day when they last fought on June 1. The GAB board has yet to act on the new date pending the arrival of Flores from Moscow. But even if Flores disallows the fight, Rudy Salud, Gorres' manager, will appeal to the GAB board. "If the GAB board turns down my appeal, I will go to the Office of the President," said Salud. If and when the administrative remedies fail, Salud said he would go to the courts for a TRO (temporary restraining order).

But as if all the brouhaha on Flores' illogical ruling isn't enough to make you all puke in dismay, here comes Jun Sarreal again, scheduling a Nov. 13 fight for Rodrigo in Bataan. If that's not crazy, what is? The Bataan fight, a non-title fight, is illegal from the start. Lainez owns Rodrigo's fight contract in the first place. How can Sarreal then clinch a fight for Rodrigo when such a fight has to have the approval of Lainez? Besides, the Nov. 13 fight, if it materializes at all, is too close to the Dec. 13 title bout between Rodrigo and Gorres. A head butt or a similar accident happening to Rodrigo might jeopardize his date with Gorres.

C'mon, Chairman Villanueva, speak up. Your deafening silence has got to end.

***

FASTBREAK. Cheers to Lito Alvarez, the Air21 president, for spearheading the Tour ng Pangasinan on Oct. 11-12. The cycling event is part of the run-up to the Tour Pilipinas 2004 but more importantly, it will fete Pangasinan's former cycling champions on Sunday after the grand finish in Mangatarem, with cycling legend Jesus A. Garcia Jr. coordinating the affair through Mangatarem Mayor Nelson Cruz. I may not be there in the flesh but, surely, I am with you in spirit, fellas. Cheers!

Eaglets soar thanks to 3 former Eagles

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE EAGLETS with Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres (left, standing) whoop it up after regaining the UAAP junior crown. Inset, MVP Barracoso.

ERNIE U SARMIENTO

NOW it can be told.

Three dribblers with championship rings played crucial roles as Ateneo reclaimed the UAAP junior basketball diadem by sweeping Adamson in the recent best-of-three championship series at the Araneta Coliseum.

Head coach Jamike Jarin, known for his intensity, yesterday told the INQUIRER that the addition of former Eagles Cris Quimpo, Marco Benitez and Andrew Cruz to the coaching staff worked wonders for the team's title campaign.

"Winning the title was the result of lots of hard work. The coaching staff did a wonderful job," said Jarin, whose chemistry with now Eagles assistant coach Sandy Arespacochaga resulted in back-to-back titles in 1999-2000.

"Sandy and I were like Batman and Robin. There was rapport between us," said Jarin, who took over this year when Sandy opted to concentrate on the Eagles.

In downing the Adamson Baby Falcons, the Eaglets erased the stigma of last year's debacle from the Marvin Cruz-led UP Integrated School.

While praising the school's role in the championship flight of the Eaglets, Jarin said Quimpo and company helped mold the champion team.

"Cris concentrated on our point guards, Marco on our perimeter game and Andrew on defense and big men," Jarin, 33, said.

Point guard Carlo Medina and off-guard Jai Reyes sizzled during the series. Ken Barracoso, the season MVP, was a steady force all throughout, while Mark Encarnacion and Paolo Dizon had their share of the limelight.

But it was Mark Intal, younger brother of senior JC, who made heads turn.

Aside from scoring, the 6-foot-1 Intal grabbed 42 rebounds in two games, outdueling Adamson's William Johnston, Gener Pandaan and rookie of the year Jomar Canuday in the shaded lane.

"Mark played big. Maybe he wanted to prove something because this was his final year with the team," noted Jarin.

To make the finals for the 10th straight year, the Eaglets needed to conquer their second-round tormentors, the La Salle-Zobel Bengals in the Final Four. The Bengals were powered by a spitfirish point guard named Lope Juban III, who kept the Eaglets at bay in the first three quarters with his daredevil plays.

After the Bengals came the Falcons, who played a matured, strong type of basketball. Jarin, however, was ready.

The Eaglets wrought havoc on the Baby Falcons' defense with their running game and pressure defense.

Barrocoso, Intal, Alvin Reyes, JC Santos, Encarnacion and Nap Lopa will no longer be around next year. But Jarin isn't worried.

"I still have nine players remaining and my big men are promising," Jarin said, referring to Gio Tingzon, Jothan Manlapaz and 14-year-old Gian Chiu, already a towering 6-foot-6.

Lerio, Ladon draw classy opening foes

KARACHI, Pakistan—The five-man RP Team-Revicon, with hardly enough rest following a successful campaign in India, plunges into action with two tough bouts on Wednesday in the Green Hill Cup Boxing Tournament here.

Arlan Lerio and Junard Ladon, gold medalists in the recently concluded 1st Goa International Championships along with Harry Tañamor, climb the ring hoping to maintain the win streak of the Filipino boxers.

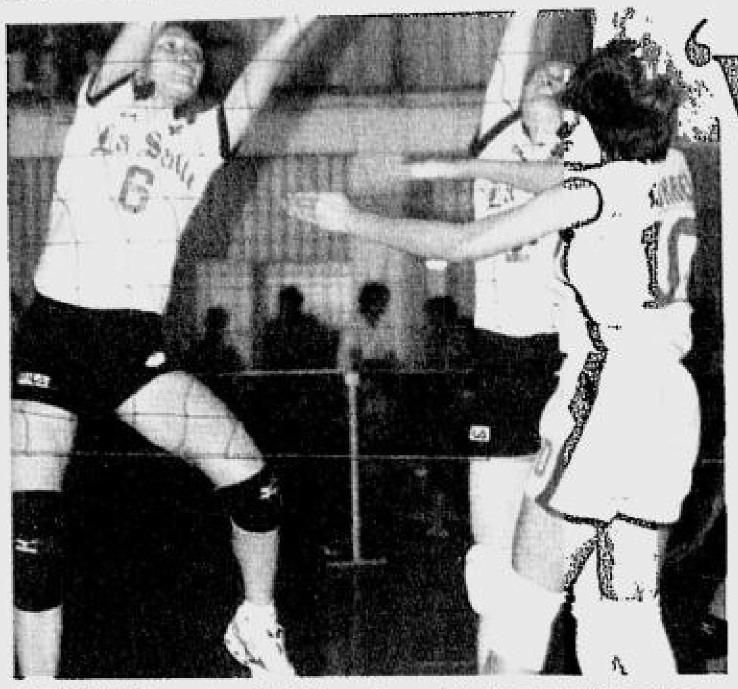
Sydney Olympics veteran Lerio, the pride of Anripas, North Cotabato, drew Yutthaphonsut Nongbu of Thailand as his first assignment in the bantamweight division while Ladon, a Bago City native and one of the promising members of the RP boxing pool, fights Song Guk of South Korea in a featherweight duel.

"This is a non-stop campaign because it is not easy to win the overall title in the SEA Games in Vietnam," said George Caliwan, head coach of this team backed by Pacific Heights, Accel and the Philippine Sports Commission.

The Pakistan tournament features a tough field that includes fighters from South Korea, Thailand, Afghanistan, China, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Hungary.

"*Sakripisyo at pagtitiis, para sa bayan ito. Ipagdarasal namin kayong lahat dito* (Sacrifice and hard work for the country. We'll pray for you)," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines' Manny Lopez in a short text message from Manila.

La Salle slams 'volley' foes



MAUREEN Penerante of La Salle makes a defensive gem in the game against FEU. Below, the Lady Archers with team officials and supporters, led by former PSC chair Philip Juico (seated left). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

LA SALLE may have sputtered in basketball, but it proved unbeatable in volleyball.

The Archers completed a sweep of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) volleyball crowns the other day, beating University of the Philippines in the men's contest and dethroning Far Eastern in the women's side at the UP Human Kinetics gym in Diliman.

The volleyball crowns also hiked to four De La Salle's championships this season. The Green Archers had earlier won the men's chess title and also ruled women's swimming late last month.

The Archers went an hour and a half against tournament host UP Maroons, 20-25, 25-15, 25-16, 25-14, while the Lady Archers had an easier time disposing of a crippled Lady Tamaraws crew, 25-17, 25-17, 25-17.

La Salle clinched both crowns with back-to-back wins in the best-of-three series.

It was a fulfillment of a goal it failed to achieve last season, when the Taft Avenue-based squads finished runner-up to Santo Tomas in men's play and FEU in women's action.

Center-spiker John Lee Patrona and spiker Desiree Hernandez underscored La Salle's domination of the league's 66th season by running away with the Most Valuable Player trophies.

The Lady Tamaraws, who swept the same team in last year's finals, played without key players Joan Bunag and Monica Aleta, who reportedly were called to duty by the Philippine Navy where they are enlisted to play in an Armed Forces of the Philippines tournament.

The Green Archers, on the other hand, wore down the spirited Maroons with their excellent blocking throughout the one-and-a-half-hour contest.

UAAP president Jose Capistrano Jr. was joined by De La Salle team manager Philip Ella Juico and Guillermo Jose of the De La Salle sports program in the awarding of the trophies to the Archers.

The Green Archers got the edge over the Maroons in Game One Sunday, 25-22, 19-25, 25-22, 25-12, while the Lady Archers also moved up in the series over the Lady Tamaraws, 16-25, 25-19, 25-20, 25-23, in their own series.

Laguna booters stun Negros, gain final

SANTA BARBARA, Iloilo—Underrated Laguna shocked Negros Oriental, 7-6, via penalty shootout Wednesday to arrange a showdown with top favorite Iloilo for the adidas national under-19 football title here.

The Southern Luzon booters outgunned their rivals, 5-4, in the shootout after the two teams had battled to a 2-2 tie in the regulation period.

Kinley Salvador Delgado struck with barely a minute left to lift Iloilo past Negros Occidental, 2-1, in the other game.

Kim Oliver Lozano broke the ice for Iloilo in the sixth minute, but Floriano Pasilan leveled the count in the 38th. Delgado came through with the winner in the final minute of the match.

The championship and third-place games were scheduled here late yesterday.

Adornis Torres, Oliver Benjamin Oliva, Bryan John Pasion, Jay Torres and Jefferson Apuada converted all their penalty attempts in the shootout to propel Laguna to the finals.

John Philip Ragay, Jason Cutamora, Robijay Absin and Reeve Agir delivered for Negros Oriental in the shootout, but they fell one short.

Absin knocked in both Negros Oriental goals in regulation, while Adornis Torres and Eliezer Fabroada struck for Laguna.

Torres is the tourney's leading goal scorer with nine, followed by Negros Occidental's Samuel Pontillas and Pasilan with eight each.

RACING

AT SANTA ANA
BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Night Flight 2. Red Thunder 3. Simply Great 4. Expresso

Race 2--1. Joaqi 2. Golden Sunshine 3. Maginoo's Pride 4. Dangerous Beauty

Race 3--1. Betruetome 2. Inner Wheeler 3. Bullhorn

Race 4--1. Favorite Trick 2. Bronte 3. Elusive Quality 4. Divine Diva 5. College Gem

Race 5--1. Queen of Gaia 2. Popularity 3. Fortius

Race 6--1. Kitana 2. Very Sharp 3. Opening Prospect 4. Gleaming Heart 5. Always

Race 7--1. Pirouette 2. Zero Gravity 3. Rosa Valentina 4. Super Dancer 5. Boogie Shoes

Race 8--1. Kiss Me Quick 2. American Beauty 3. Winning Prize 4. Heat Breaker

Race 9--1. Two Thumbs Up 2. Double Header 3. Dynasouls 4. Katya 5. Dedicated 6. Passionately

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NL PLAYOFFS

Cubs down Marlins

CHICAGO—Mark Prior tossed seven innings of eight-hit ball to help the Chicago Cubs to a 12-3 rout of the Florida Marlins in Game Two of the National League Championship Series Wednesday.

Chicago's victory tied the series at 1-1, with Game Three in Miami Friday.

"Our guys are feeling good," said Cubs manager Dusty Baker, who led the San Francisco Giants to a World Series berth last season.

"Sooner or later your offense is going to get it together.

We're swinging the bat well as a team," Baker told reporters.

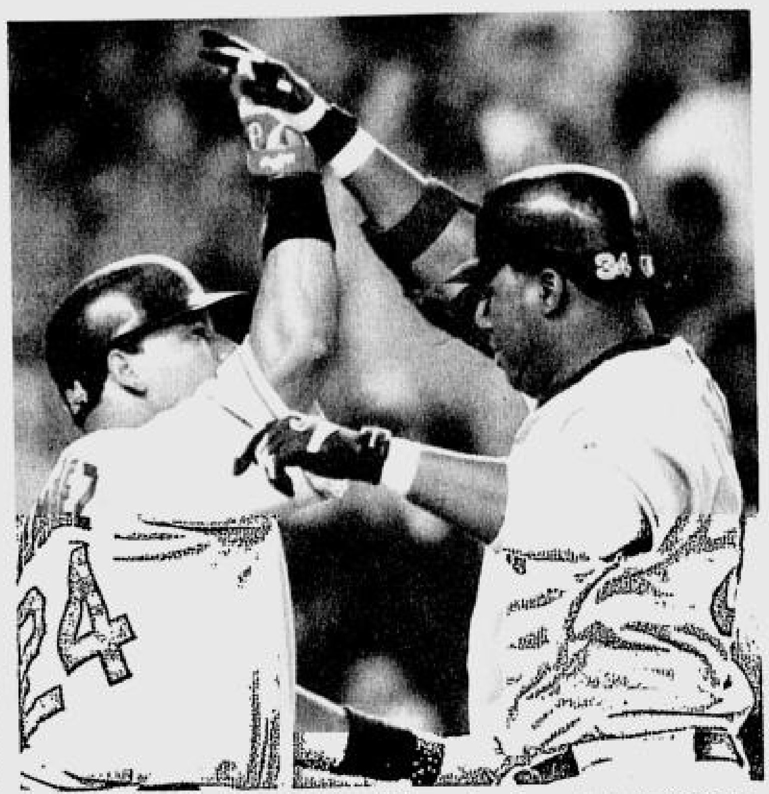
The Cubs pushed across two runs in their first at-bats, Randall Simon driving a first-pitch fastball off Brad Penny (0-1) into left field with the bases full and two men gone.

Penny and Marlins catcher Ivan Rodriguez appeared to be at odds from the outset, with Rodriguez having to call time to go over signs.

The Cubs added to their lead in the second inning, Kenny Lofton plating a run before Sammy Sosa crushed a ball to center to score two more.

Sosa's blast, estimated at nearly 500 feet, had Lofton shaking his head in disbelief.

Aramis Ramirez homered to deep left to spark a three-run third before the heavy-hitting Alex Gonzalez made it 10-0 with a two-run, fifth-inning blast off former 20-game winner Rick Helling. *Reuters*



RED Sox's David Ortiz (right) and Manny Ramirez celebrate in Game 1 of the American League Championship Series. AP

Sox beat Yankees

NEW YORK—The Boston Red Sox cracked three home runs and Tim Wakefield allowed two hits over six innings to help defeat the New York Yankees 5-2 in Game One of the American League Championship Series Wednesday.

Wakefield was thrilled to be given the chance to start at Yankee Stadium and he responded in style.

After defeating the A's in Game Four of the opening-round playoff series at Fenway Park Sunday, Boston flew to Oakland for Game Five, then returned home straight after to face New York.

Game Two is in New York Thursday.

Wakefield spoke for the team when he said: "I told my friends not to call me tomorrow, I'm sleeping in". David Ortiz put the Sox on the board when he took Yankees starter Mike Mussina (0-2) deep with a man aboard in the fourth inning. *Reuters*

Jordan spurns return

CHICAGO—Michael Jordan would not make a comeback to play for the Los Angeles Lakers, even if his former coach Phil Jackson asked him.

Jackson, who coached Jordan to six National Basketball Association titles with the Chicago Bulls, might be looking for a guard for the Lakers if star Kobe Bryant, who faces sexual assault charges, is unable to play.

Jackson said he would consider asking Jordan, 40, if he would be interested in coming out of his third NBA retirement and joining the Lakers.

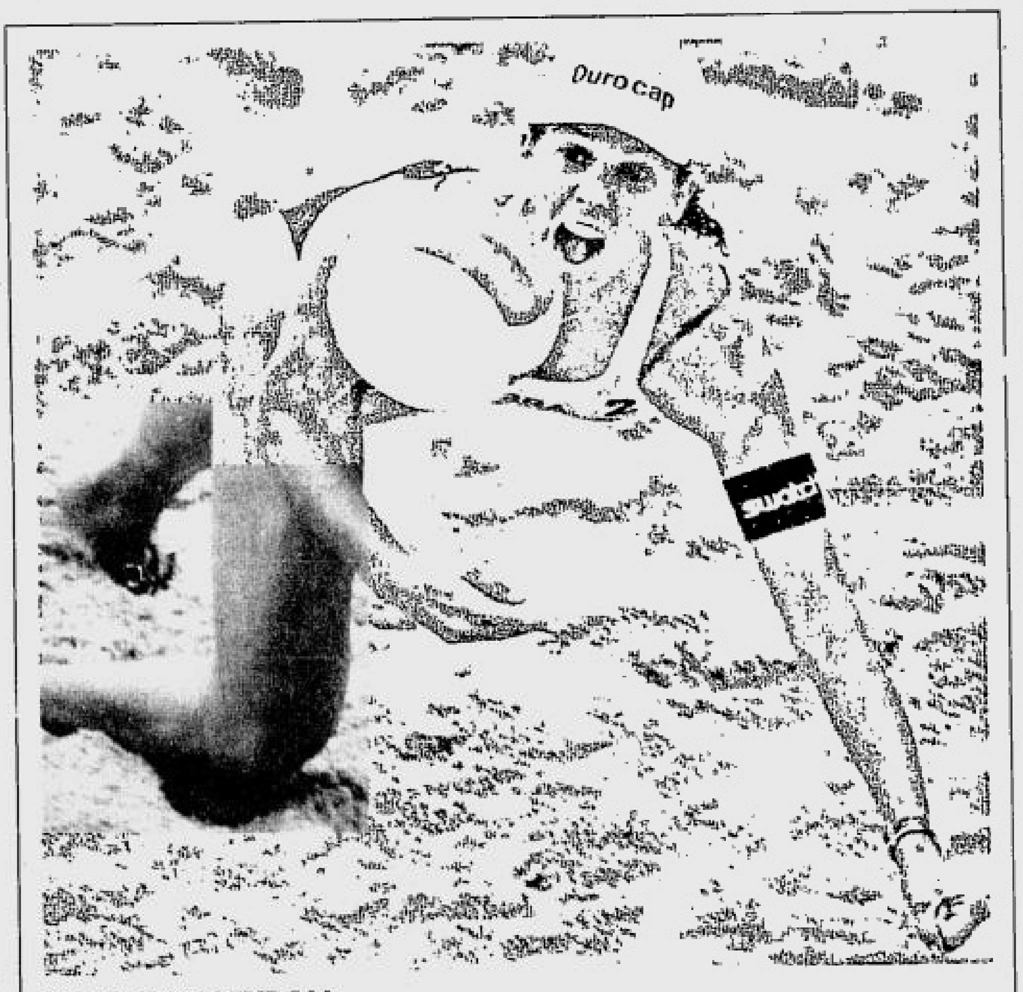
But Jordan issued a statement saying he would not consider such an offer.

"It's a 100 percent no," Jordan said.

Jordan wants to return to the NBA, but as a club owner.

After being dumped by the Washington Wizards when he expected to return to his former job as vice president of playing personnel, Jordan has been linked to two other NBA clubs.

But Robert Johnson, owner of the expansion Charlotte Bobcats, said Jordan was not interested in an executive post with the future club because he wanted to own an NBA team of his own. *AFP*



BEACH VOLLEYBALL

Brazil's Sandra Pires dives for the ball during a preliminary round match against another Brazilian pair of Ana Richa and Larissa Franca at the women's beach volleyball world championships at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 8. Pires and Ana Paula won, 21-14, 21-13. REUTERS

2 Ateneo aces still welcome to RP five for Vietnam SEAG

ATENEO'S Richard Alvarez, two-time MVP in the UAAP, and Wesley Gonzales are most welcome to join the national team in the coming Vietnam SEA Games.

BAP president Tiny Literal yesterday told the INQUIRER that the 6-foot-4 Alvarez and 6-foot-3 Gonzales would boost the title-retention bid of the national team, but added head coach Aric del Rosario would have the final say.

The two Eagles were in the original RP team roster, but Del Rosario had to replace them because they were playing in the UAAP.

Unable to form a highly competitive team with the failure of top collegiate stars to don the country's colors due to conflict of schedules, the RP team finished a worst ever 15th in last Asian Basketball Confederation (ABC) championship.

The national team will see action in the PBL Platinum Cup starting on Nov. 8 as part of its SEAG preparations. *Dennis U. Eroa*

Appleby, Flesch lead with 62s in PGA tilt

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Par is a good score at many tournaments, but it won't be enough to make the cut at this week's PGA Tour stop—the $4 million Las Vegas Invitational.

Only 28 of the 144 golfers in the field failed to break par Wednesday as wildlife prevailed, with birdies and eagles the answer for the bright and sunny first round.

Stuart Appleby of Australia finished a mistake-free, 10-under-par 62 with six straight birdies. Steve Flesch started with five birdies and matched Appleby's 62 to share the lead. *AFP*

Bryant sex trial goes on

EAGLE, Colorado—When last seen in this small mountain town, Kobe Bryant spent seven minutes in court and uttered just two words.

He returns Thursday for an appearance that could be just as brief—but the two words he says might be a lot more significant.

Depending on what strategy his lawyers choose, Bryant could enter a plea of innocent to the charge he sexually assaulted a hotel worker. If he does, it will begin the legal countdown to a celebrity trial the likes of which have not been seen in the United States since former football great O.J. Simpson was tried on murder charges eight years ago.

Already, a media throng that includes former Simpson prosecutor Marcia Clark is in place for Bryant's second appearance in two months in a courtroom before a judge used to dealing with more mundane matters like petty theft and drunken driving.

A gag order is in place for all participants in the case, but that hasn't stopped some 300 television, print and radio types from gathering to report—and speculate—on what fate awaits Bryant. *AP*

Uratex caddies golf up Nov. 24

THE URATEX National Caddies Championship, the annual gathering of the country's leading Filipino bag-toters since 1988, will be held on Nov. 24-28 at the Valley Golf and Country Club's Executive Course in Antipolo City.

Robert Cheng, the man who launched one of the world's most unique tournaments involving caddies on a national scale, bared this recently, after he got word from organizing committee co-chair Abe Villanueva of Valley's availability.

"I'm happy to tell our caddies that we are staging the 15th tourrtament at Valley again," said Cheng, president of the RGC Group of Companies, including Polyfoam-RGC International Corp., Uratex Philippines.

Last year, Valley, through its board headed by its president Alexander "Bobot" Marquez, unanimously approved the staging at the Executive Course. Capitol Hills, home of this yearly tournament, is still under renovation.

Cheng started the event 15 years ago at the Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club in Old Balara, Quezon City to provide Filipino caddies their own national event, help them financially with hefty prizes in gift certificate and in kind, and discover talent.

Cheng is chair of the executive committee with Capitol Hills president Boy Roman, vice president Pat Roman and businessman Danny Pe as members. Sen. Tito Sotto is honorary chair.

Basco survives . . .

From page A25

Lorenzo Narvaez lost to fourth seed Lim Hyung-Joon of South Korea, 6-3, 6-2, and No. 8 Irwin de Guzman got waylaid by third seed Korean Lee Seong-Woo, 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Basco, a protégé of Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy training director Manny Tecson, shoots for a final berth at 9 a.m. today against Lee.

In the girls' division, top-ranked Filipino Czarina Mae Arevalo outclassed fifth seed Gayatri Krisnan of India, 6-2, 6-1, to secure a semifinal slot in this event sponsored by Philam Life Foundation, The Phinma Group, adidas Philippines, Prince rackets, Toby's Sports, Viva Mineral Water, Nassau balls, Coke Light, Powerade, among others.

Arevalo will face Taiwanese Tai Yu-Lin, a 6-2, 6-1 winner over Byeon Hye-Jin of South Korea.

SPORTSWATCH

Avon Fun Run against cancer

THE AVON Teen Advisory Council (TAC) presents "Me and My Mom against Breast Cancer" 3K Fun Run/Walk on Oct. 26 at the PICC Grounds of the CCP Complex. The event is also presented by the Philippine Cancer Society Inc. and will be supervised by marathon organizer Rudy Biscocho. Major sponsors include Westin Philippine Plaza, Fila and Meg magazine. Registration starts today, with a fee of P75, at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan, Proceeds will go to the PGH Breast care center. For details, call 8642671-72 (Avon) or 7279987 (Race). Louie Migne, Avon Cosmetics Inc. senior PR manager, said Avon is a champion of the breast cancer cause and the management is proud that the Avon Teen Advisory Council is joining the fight against cancer.

Blue Guards cop Futsal Cup

DING Dong Locsin stepped up and scored the kick that led Blue Guards to a 7-6 shootout victory over the Manila Football Club recently, winning the "1st Mayor's Futsal Cup" held at the new Pasay City Sports Center. Blue Guards and Manila FC ended the regulation time of the match organized by Hattrick Inc. in a 2-2 count. The contest for third-place also ended in a shootout with Ateneo FC winning 6-4 over the F5 futsal team. Pasay Mayor Peewee Trinidad opened the affair with a speech and ceremonial kick-off. Students from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Makati filled the center and were treated to "futsal" from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Nike Philippines provided the futsal balls while Red Ribbon Bakeshop brought the food.

San Beda, UST make finals

SAN Beda College and University of Santo Tomas barged into the finals with identical 1-0 wins over their opponents at the Philsports pitch in Sunday's "Ang Liga" action. San Beda got an 11th minute goal courtesy of Jeremias Jiao from a right cross by Vaughn Mellendrez and managed to suck up the University of the East pressure for the remaining 79 minutes. Aris Caslib's Red Lions played minus star attacker Dan "The Bull" Padernal, who is on the injury list with a left hamstring strain. In the other semifinal, coach Nonnoy Carpio's University of Santo Tomas Growling Tigers got a free kick from Yocyoc Becite to manmarker Sorito Judal who headed into the back of the FEU net in just four minutes of action. UST and San Beda meet in the finals Sunday.

Boracay hosts Asian Aquathlon

THE ASIAN Aquathlon Championship set on Dec. 13 on the island paradise of Boracay got a big boost recently with the entry of Speedo and other corporate sponsors in the three-day event. Speedo signed a title sponsorship contract with the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (Trap), which is sanctioning the event—a joint project between TRAP and the Alternative Events group headed by Nino Sinco. Following the lead of Speedo, Pearl of the Pacific, the official hotel, Nike, Fuji Film, Corporate Air, and other support sponsors like David's Spa, Alaska, the Philippine Sports Commission and the POC-Sports-for-All Commission threw in their support to the international event. Expected to attract entries from Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore, Chinese-Taipei and South Korea, the event will be held simultaneously with the Philippine Aquathlon Championships and the 2nd Boracay Multisports Festival. For inquiries, call 4266803.

Dalupan, protegés SCOOP guests

THE COMING "Tribute to the Maestro" in honor of legendary coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan will be the topic in today's SCOOP sa Kamayan session at the Kamayan Restaurant on West Avenue in Quezon City. Dalupan, the winningest bench tactician in Philippine basketball with 49 titles in nearly 40 years of coaching, has been invited to grace the session sponsored by Photokina Marketing. Joining them in the panel are Dalupan's protegés from the University of the East and Crispa—Atoy Co, Philip Cezar, bogs Adornado, Tito Varela, Bong dela Cruz, Rey Franco, Ray Cristobal and Itoy Esguerra. The session starts 11 a.m. and will be aired live on Sports Radio.

AXN Challenge registry opens Oct. 1

THE COUNTRY will again host the Samsung AXN Challenge, Asia's premier urban adventure race series, which is expected to transform Metro Manila into one giant playground for adventure athletes. Sponsored by Samsung, presented by Merrell Performance Footwear, cosponsored by Addict Mobile, and supported by Sky Cable, Home Cable, Eastwood City Walk, Sony Music and Warner Music, the premier urban adventure race is a grueling four- to six-hour event that will test participants' physical and mental endurance. Competitions on tap are biking, orienteering, kayaking, rappelling and belaying. Registration starts on Oct. 1 and ends on Oct. 24. Registration forms and information can be found on www.axn-asia.com. For inquiries, call 922-9273 to 76.

PATAKBONG PINOY

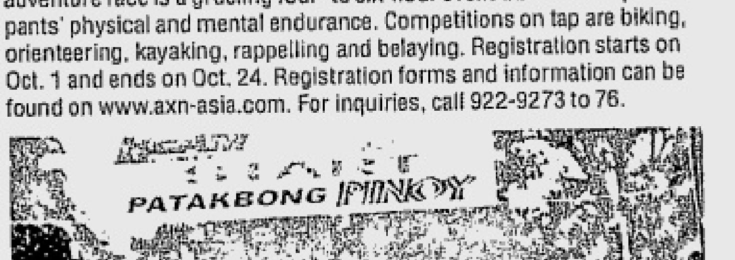
BEAM-ZEST-O RACE: Thousands answer the starting gun during the inaugural race of the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy last Sunday at the Raja Sulaiman Park. Ronald Servidad of Far Eastern and Gloria Diaz of St. Francis of Assisi College ruled the race. The Patakbong Pinoy moves to its second leg at Bauan, Batangas on Oct. 26.

PCCA 4-stag derby tonight

THE PASAY Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) 4-Stag Derby gets under way tonight with more than 50 fights lined up. Sponsors are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free and Sagupaan B-50 Forten. Among those competing are the PCCA's Rey Briones, Joel Fernando, Joey Lapid, Mont Torres, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, engineer Inger Valdez, Cito Manansala, Capt. Emil Chua, Councilor Ferdie Eusebio, Joey Lapid, Jun Topacio and Ansel Cordura. Slated on Oct. 17 is another 3-stag derby hosted by PCC management. For inquiries, call 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

Tams team to beat in Unigames

NEWLY crowned UAAP basketball champion Far Eastern University will be the team to beat when the University Games (Unigames) unfolds on Oct. 22-29 at the DLSU-Dasmariñas grounds. Far Eastern finished second last year to St. Francis of Assisi College in the same tournament. In all, 24 of the 45 participating tertiary schools will be contesting the basketball crown, including Adamson, Ateneo, College of St. Benilde, La Salle, San Beda, Angeles University Foundation, University of the East, University of Mindanao, Olivarez College and University of the Philippines.



Tabang Mindanaw Benefit Golf: Legend International Resorts Ltd has signed an agreement with Tabang Mindanaw to stage the 3rd Legend Tee Golf Tournament, Nov. 7-8, at the Subic Bay Golf and Country Bay Freeport. From left are Ronald Gomez, Legend PRO Cheryl Singzon, Special Projects manager Milet Mendoza, Tabang executive coordinator Khoo Boo Boon, CEO of Legend Resorts; Dr. Raul Ting, Bong Villariza and Chris Zabala.

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

CERNADAS coming today

'Monica Brava' actor to star in GMA telenovela

ARGENTINEAN actor Segundo Cernadas, better known to Filipino televiewers as Pablo in the hit drama series "Monica Brava," will arrive in Manila today to star in a locally produced telenovela to be shown on GMA 7.

The 31-year-old actor will arrive at 6 p.m. on board KLM airlines, according to a source from GMA 7.

Cernadas will star in the fairy-tale love story titled "Te Amo" opposite Ysa Calzado, who will play the role of a poor fisherman's daughter.

The complete list of cast members will be released at a later date, according to the GMA 7 insider.

Cernadas was born in Viedma, Río Negro, Argentina.

Before joining show biz, he was in the import business with his parents. He studied Agronomy and Economics in Argentina.

"Monica Brava," which starred Natalia Oreiro as Monica, had been aired on GMA 7 for almost a year.

It was Argentina's biggest telenovela.

"Monica Brava" was shown in Argentina as "Muñeca Brava (Wild Angel)" and in Greece as "Milagros."

It was also seen in Romania, Slovenia, Israel and the Latin community in the United States.

GMA 7 is bent on putting up a good fight in the contest for the most popular telenovela, in the wake of the phenomenal success of ABS-CBN's "Meteor Garden."

Aside from filming "Te Amo," GMA 7 has also acquired the rights to Korean and Taiwanese drama serials like "I Love Cindy," "Niki Loves Yuu" and "Endless Love."

DID YOU KNOW...

Jomari Yllana, ex-husband of **Aiko Melendez** and said to be the current boyfriend of **Ara Mina**, was spotted with a young woman, who is not from show biz, at Café Adriatico in Malate, Manila last Sunday night. The eyewitness described Jomari's date as pretty, long-haired, doe-eyed, mestiza and chubby. The eyewitness added, "*Alam ba 'to ni Ara?*"

'Underworld' pulled out due to 'inserts'

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) last Friday ordered the pullout of Len Wiseman's "Underworld," starring British actress Kate Beckinsale, from theaters nationwide after the censors found unapproved scenes "inserted" in the film.

MTRCB agents found at least four scenes that were "too violent and gory" and which were not in the copy of the movie that Pioneer Films had submitted to the review body.

MTRCB chair Consoliza Laguardia also ordered the 20-day suspension of Pioneer Films' permit to exhibit "Underworld" starting Oct. 4. Pioneer Films is the local distributor of the action-adventure movie.

But yesterday, the MTRCB gave the film an R-18 rating to allow the inclusion of the questionable scenes.

The movie will be shown again starting today. The distributor, however, has been fined P100,000.

Laguardia said that on Oct. 3, the MTRCB received a tip from an unidentified "concerned citizen" about the inserted scenes.

She said she sent two MTRCB agents to watch "Underworld" at the Odeon Theater on Claro M. Recto in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

The two MTRCB agents reported that the questionable scenes showed Beckinsale's character "slicing open the head

UNDERWORLD/ A30

VAMPIRES VS WEREWOLVES. Beckinsale vs Speedman

Kate Beckinsale movie bad in unexpected ways

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

A FRIEND told me that film critics in the US bashed "Underworld" without mercy. I wonder, did I really see the same film they did?

I thoroughly liked "Underworld." In fact, I can't wait for the sequel, which the film's ending makes certain.

"Underworld" may lack the sense of dread that creeps out of the pages of an Anne Rice novel. Its dialogue at times may be a bit cheesy, and anyone familiar with vampire and werewolf mythologies may take umbrage at some of the inaccuracies in certain scenes.

But even when it's bad, "Underworld" is bad in appealingly unexpected ways. Besides, how can anyone not like a film that pits vampires against werewolves? Putting them both in one movie is brilliant, and the long lines outside the theater where I saw the film is proof that their lure has not worn off.

Death dealer

When the movie opens, we find our heroine, Selene (Kate Beckinsale of "Serendipity" looking utterly gorgeous in skin-hugging black latex), perched high above a building, surveying the procession of people below. Selene is a special kind of vampire, a "death dealer," one who's responsible for liquidating werewolves, whom the vampires call Lykans.

Selene says vampires have practi-

KATE/ A30

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Monique repeats theater-concert fusion

SHOW TIME

MONIQUE Wilson's solo concert, "Monique Sings Gershwin and Other Broadway Hits," will have a repeat performance at the new Republic of Malate Theatre at 9 p.m.

The concert is the story of one woman's journey through life, love and loss, told through songs and dramatic excerpts. Monique sings Gershwin classics as well as Broadway hits from "Chess," "Mama Mia," "Oliver!", "Phantom of the Opera," "Aspects of Love," "Goodbye Girl" and "Evita," interspersed with monologues and poetry by D.H. Lawrence, Shakespeare, Cristina Rossetti, Anne Frank, George Bernard Shaw, among others.

Critics have described the fusion of concert and theater as a "dizzying and exhilarating trip," a "thoughtful and intelligent production" and "an ensemble performance at its most polished." Rina Jimenez-David described it as a "meditation or reflection of love, romance, conflict, heartbreak and redemption."

Performing with Monique are 12 members of the New Voice Company (of which she is artistic director).

The concert is made possible with arts grants from Revlon, Absolute, NU 107.5, Joey 92.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Sound Design, La Cremeria, Kwang Tong and Philippine Star.

For tickets call the New Voice Company Actor Studio at 896-6695 or 899-0630, or e-mail at nvc@pacific.net.ph. Tickets are also available at Ticketworld (891-5610) outlets: major National Bookstores, Tower Records, Music Museum, Robinsons' Dept. Stores, Tower Records, Greenbelt 1 and Glorietta 1.

Nyoy's major show 'Loaded' with firsts

FOR his first major concert, "Loaded," at the Music Museum tonight, acoustic artist Nyoy Volante, together with the acoustic trio Mannos (Glenn Dalit on k-hon, Cocoy Aranas on bass and Jerome Nuñez on violin), will sing songs that his audience has not heard him sing before in his live shows. Think songs like "Mais Que Nada," "Fever," "Bailamos, a medley of Apo Hiking Society hits, Queen's "We Will Rock You," Ella Mae Saison's "Till My Heartaches End," and "The Greatest Love of All," a number he will do with the Mandaluyong Children's Chorus.

Also joining Nyoy are Verni Varga, pianist Martin Avila, ballet dancer Maria Katrina Sulit who is the daughter of Bing Sulit and Joe D'Mango of Wave 89.1, and flutist Shaira Luna.

"Loaded" starts at 9 p.m. It is presented by Nestle KitKat, Eventures, PLDT My Music in cooperation with Sinutab and Max's Fried Chicken Tutuban and LRT Buendia. Special thanks to Levi's, Miguel Francisco of Njork, I-Manila, Via Dermatologica, Vicor Music Corp., Neo-Holistic Center, Tri-World Piano Center, Crystal Clear Waters, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, dwTM 89.9, dwRT 99.5, and 105.3 K-Lite and photography by Eli Agabin.

For tickets and reservations, call the Music Museum Ticketron at 721-6726, all Ticketworld outlets at 891-5610, and 7003 Dynamix at 533-8153, 718-0945 or 0917-934-0526.

AUBREY FOR AVIA
Aubrey Miles, who's in "Home Along da Airport" and "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" on ABS-CBN, will be featured in a show at the Podium in Ortigas Center tomorrow at 6 p.m. to launch in the local market Avia, one of the top 10 sports footwear brands in the US.

Kate Beckinsale movie bad in unexpected ways

From page A29

cally won the war against werewolves a long time ago when they killed the werewolves' Alpha male, Lucian. But there are still a few strays that need to be rounded up.

Selene discovers, however, that the Lykans are themselves hunting down someone, a human named Michael (Scott Speedman from TV's "Felicity"). Tracking him down would lead to all sorts of plot twists. An intriguing mix of romance, tragedy and violence runs through them all.

Wherever its flaws may lie, the makers of "Underworld" made certain that the flaws would not be in the realm of visual presentation. First-time director Len Wiseman and his technical team have created a feast for the eyes. Wiseman started as a TV commercial and music video director, and his first forays into the big screen were as art director of "Stargate" and "Independence Day." He not only knows how to keep the action moving; he also imbues the movie with a palpable sense of atmosphere and attitude that drapes the age-old vampire and werewolf mythologies in a postmodern pall.

"Underworld" is unmistakably influenced by the comic book or graphic novel genre. The camera often swoops high above the city or dips low for extreme-angle shots. Shadows cast fearsome daggers into the light and buildings are exaggerated in their architectural details. The action happens through a nighttime world of rain-drenched and cobble stoned streets, vertiginous rooftops, dark clubrooms and even sewers, all evoking images of bizarre realities.

Something for everyone.

The movie is not all atmosphere and attitude. Anyone looking for a decent storyline would not be disappointed. The premise may grab you right away, but it also has a lot of elements to make you never want to let go, even when it descends into more predictable action-caper clichés.

There's the plight of forbidden lovers, for instance, a la Romeo and Juliet, cast alongside the themes of class-based exploitation, race mixing and racial identity. The luxurious life of the pedigreed and sophisticated vampire aristocracy—they wear hip clothes, drive Benzes and Porsches and have cocktail parties at their huge mansion—contrasts sharply with the shaggy and animalistic existence of the werewolf pack (they hide in the sewers).

I think the main reason for the movie's success, despite the thumbing-down of critics, is that it never actually settles down to one particular genre. Its story appeals to action fans, romantics, super naturalists, even socialists.

What would the film be without Kate Beckinsale? Her poster alone is enough to entice men into the darkness of the theater even if there were actually vampires there lying in wait. I tell you, I'll offer my neck to her anytime. The bite might hurt, but with beauty like hers, it would be churlish to complain.

'Underworld' pulled . . .

From page A29

of a vampire, a werewolf scientist being killed and blood flowing profusely from his mouth, a female vampire being bled dry, and Michael (Scott Speedman) transforming into a vampire/werewolf hybrid." The agents added that these scenes were shown "in greater detail than the print submitted to the MTRCB for review."

"The commercial exhibition of the film, with the above-mentioned illegal and unauthorized insertions, clearly constitutes tampering with the film prints," said an MTRCB memorandum. It said this was a clear violation of Presidential Decree No. 1986, which says it is illegal to exhibit any movie "not duly authorized and passed by the Board."

Laguardia said a three-member committee that reviewed "Underworld" last Sept. 29 gave the movie an R-13 rating. "The unapproved scenes were definitely too violent and gory for an R-13 movie," she said.

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Reeves, Moore and Crowe in three new films

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Filipinas' a microcosm of the country

"THE MATRIX Revolutions," the highly anticipated final chapter in the Matrix trilogy, is set for screening soon in the Philippines, so the film franchise's local fans are getting all keyed up over it.

Some helpful info about the production: The film takes place within a 24-hour period, and is set in the scorched City of Zion, which has been infiltrated by biomechanical machines.

Star **Keanu Reeves** shares, "Our martial arts training for this final film was three times harder than preparing for the first two. My fight scenes and wire work here are more sophisticated and demanding. There are more movements in one particular fight sequence in 'Revolutions' than in the whole of the first two 'Matrix' movies!"

Reeves devoted at least seven hours a day to kung fu work. He rehearsed with 12 stuntmen for nine weeks to perfect a five-minute routine made up of 500 moves!

The film's fighting style integrates many different elements, and this increases its intensity, making it fascinating to watch.

"The Matrix Revolutions" may be the last film in the trilogy, but Reeves' subsequent starrers can be expected to benefit from the discipline and awesome physical conditioning that he achieved while doing the "Matrix" series.

For her part, **Mandy Moore** learns how to handle different forms of love in her latest starrer, "How to Deal." The teen romance touches on young romantic love, sibling love, friendship and intergenerational love.

Moore plays a teenager going through a rough time in her life. Her parents have just finalized their divorce and her mother (**Allison Janney**) is devastated. Her father (**Peter Gallagher**) has problems of his own: He's going through a midlife crisis and finds it hard keeping up with his young live-in partner.

Other low blows: Moore's sister is marrying a guy she doesn't approve of, and her best friend betrays her by dating a jock. No wonder Moore's character is feeling so low.

Luckily, she finds a friend in Macon Forrester (**Trent Ford**). They share the same philosophy about love: It gets in the way of a good friendship. Trouble is, Moore soon finds herself falling for her new friend!

Without any good relationships to give her positive examples to learn from, the film's teen protagonist doesn't know what to do—until love itself shows her the way.

Finally, "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World" stars **Russell Crowe** and **Paul Bettany**, and is directed by the well-regarded **Peter Weir**.

Set on the high seas, it casts Crowe as Lucky Jack Aubrey, a captain whose ship is suddenly attacked by a superior enemy warship.

Aubrey is transformed into a man on a mission as he sets sail on a high-stakes chase across two oceans to intercept and capture the foe. It's a mission that can decide the fate of his country—or destroy him and his men.

Bettany plays Stephen Maturin, a dedicated surgeon and Aubrey's trusted friend. "Master and Commander" starts its Metro Manila run on Nov. 19.

'Filipinas'

VIVA Films' prospective Metro filmfest entry, "Filipinas," is one of the biggest productions of 2003. Written by **Roi Iglesias** and directed by **Joel Lamangan**, the film is about a family experiencing trying and tumultuous times, so the movie may be seen as a microcosm of the whole country.

The family's matriarch is a widow (**Armida Siguion-Reyna**) who keeps her children together despite daunting odds. However, the children are divided by ambition, principle—and geography.

Richard Gomez's character has a white-collar job in California. The comebacking **Dawn Zulueta** plays caregiver in Israel. **Aiko Melendez** portrays a self-centered daughter. **Victor Neri** is a union leader who goes underground.

Wendell Ramos follows in the footsteps of his late father, a military man, and fights rebels in Mindanao. **Maricel Soriano** keeps her mother company, helping out in the family business, cooking and bottling preserved sweets. And **Sunshine Dizon** is an adopted daughter.

Deep-seated hurts and clashing interests divide these siblings, and their mother is broken-hearted. But tragedy strikes at Christmas, and it keeps the family together.

The makers of "Filipinas" hope that the film entertains and inspires viewers with its story that captures the aspirations and frustrations, the joy and sadness of the Philippines today.

Interactive one-woman 'church comedy'

SHOW TIME

"LATE Nite Catechism," a "religious comedy," opened in Manila last weekend, presented by Bahaghari Productions and Entertainment, which is composed of Margie Moran-Floirendo, Carmita Francisco, Nina Romualdez and Maan Hontiveros.

The comedy stars Zeneida Amador and Baby Barredo, each of whom takes her turn as director and star of the play that Newsday's Jonathan Mandell described as a "funny, satiric, always affectionate look at old-fashioned religion."

"Late Nite Catechism" is actually more like a stand-up act, since the premise is that the audience is attending an adult catechism class, with a nun handling the lesson for the night. This is a first in Philippine theater, a one-woman, full-length interactive show.

The members of the audience, as the class, can ask questions and also be asked questions.

Some lucky people from the audience will even get a chance to win prizes from the "sister."

"Late Nite Catechism" is showing at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium at RCBC Plaza, Ayala corner Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati City, on Oct. 10-12, 16, 17, 19, 23, 24 and 26.

For inquiries, call Ticketworld at 891-5610 or the RCBC Theater at 889-1246.

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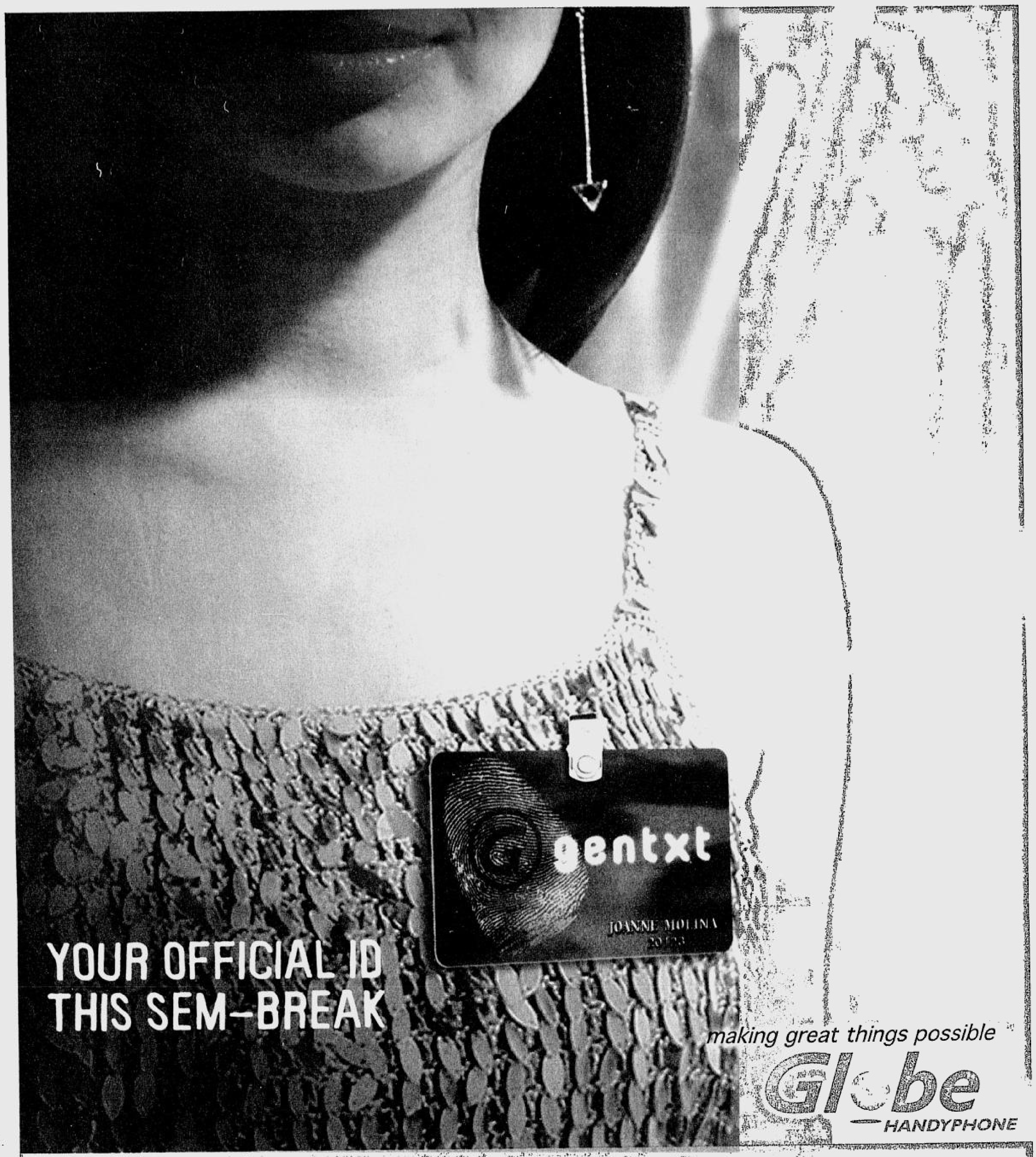
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ENTERTAINMENT

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Oct 11 & 18 9pm Gentxt Nights @ DISH Rockwell Power Plant
Move to the Gentxt groove @ our weekly [illegible]
Oct 11: South Border & [illegible] with [illegible]
Oct 18: by R&Blow featuring [illegible]
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Oct 13 Mon 7:30 pm Sex And The City Premiere of 1st Two Episodes of Season 5 (R-18) [illegible] Greenbelt
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Oct 29 - Nov 2 Gentxt @ Boracay
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SPORTS

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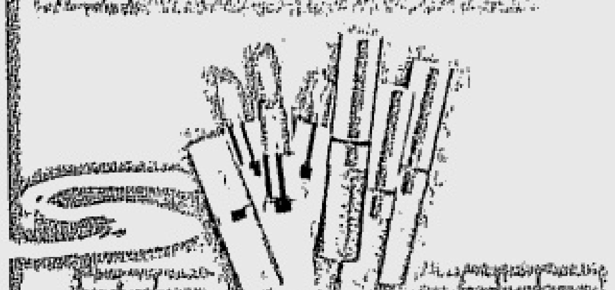
Oct 28 Tue 1:30 pm Gentxt [illegible] @ SM Megamall
Slip and slide [illegible] Gentxt [illegible]
[illegible]
100 Gentxters [illegible]



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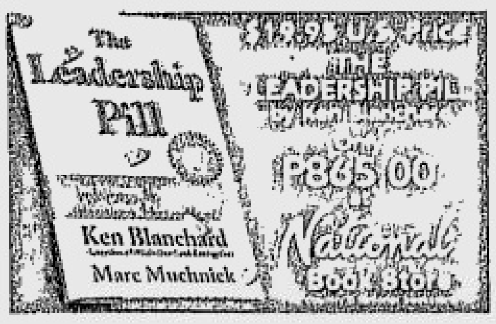

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Firms warned against BIR harassment

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance yesterday warned the public against some unscrupulous officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue who have reportedly tried extorting money in the ongoing tax-mapping drive of the BIR.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said his office as well as that of the DOF had received complaints that some BIR officials have reportedly visited business establishments with violations offering "their assistance in fixing the problem."

He said the abuses could range from offers "to fix the problem" to outright extortion.

Parayno said these corrupt practices were being done even before the tax mapping. He said there could also be impostors doing these acts.

Tax mapping is an on-spot audit of business establishments the BIR started in April. The BIR had been conducting these spot checks nationwide to force taxpayers, especially businesses, to comply with basic regulations such as registration, invoicing and posting of BIR documents.

The team conducting the tax raid must have a letter of authority and a mission order. Members of the team must also wear bright red BIR shirts.

"When we designed the tax mapping, we knew that there is a possibility it could be abused, that's why we instituted these steps. So I'm sure that no abuses are being done during the day of the audit. But we received reports that some unscrupulous ones go back a few days in the guise of following up the violations. That's the time the abuses could be committed," Parayno said.

The BIR, according to Parayno, has modified the tax-mapping drive. The BIR started to involve non-government groups to conduct tax clinics before a tax mapping such that business establishments need not be caught with violations.

When the BIR launched the tax raids in April, more than 90 percent of the businesses visited had at least one violation. Parayno said that so far, the BIR has collected P130 million in penalties from the tax-mapping campaign.

"For us, it is more important to instill compliance among taxpayers rather than going after them for violation. We collect more when taxpayers pay the right taxes rather than from penalties," the BIR chief said.

The DOF urged the public to report any abuses by a BIR or Customs official by calling 4041774 to 75 or the BIR-Office of the Commissioner (9223293).

Parayno added that the BIR continued to institute measures to curb corruption among its ranks. The BIR and the Customs were named as the most corrupt public agencies in the country, according to a poll conducted by the Social Weather Station early this year.

The BIR had embarked on the second wave of reorganization this year and said it had started overhauling last month the leadership of the 115 revenue district offices to further improve tax collection and weed out corruption in the agency.

The district offices are headed by Regional District Officers or RDOs. It is in this level of management that corruption is alleged to be widespread. Several RDOs are the subject of the ongoing lifestyle checks being conducted by the finance department.

The BIR said it would execute a performance contract with the RDOs to ensure that collection goals in the remaining months would at least be achieved.

PARAYNO

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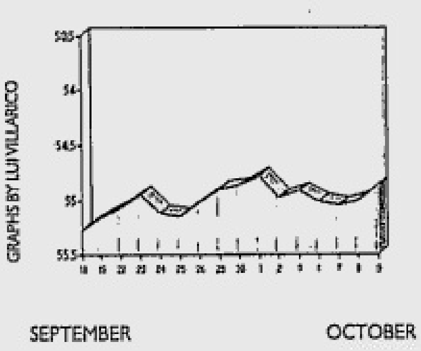

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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 9, 2003

GOLD: $376.40-376.90

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 9, 2003

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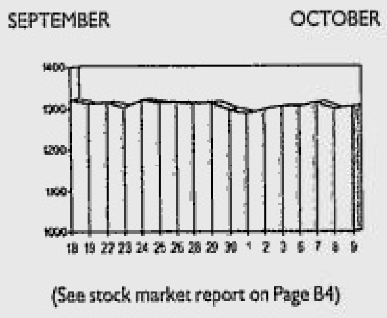

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks end up mildly

SHARES closed slightly up after trading in a narrow range yesterday, buoyed by bargain-hunting in select issues as the broad market groped for fresh leads, traders said.

Mall developer SM Prime Holdings Inc. led the market, adding 3.23 percent or 20 centavos to P6.40.

Traders said the market was likely to consolidate further in the coming weeks, with many players waiting for third-quarter corporate results to validate their stock picks.

The Philippine stock index advanced 5.12 points or 0.39 percent to end at 1,303.66 points after trading in a 12-point range during the session. The market has risen 28.01 percent so far this year.

The broader All Shares Index inched up 3.35 points or 0.42 percent to 801.30 points.

"The market is looking for direction right now. It's probably waiting for third-quarter results," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

"We might see the market consolidating until next week, in a range of about 20 points up and down." Turnover narrowed to P503.86 million against P595 million on Wednesday. Gainers outpaced losers, 28 to 22, with 42 issues unchanged.

Local food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. "A" edged up 0.93 percent or 50 centavos to P54.

Plana said players shrugged off news that a local anti-graft court had lifted a 17-year freeze on a 20-percent block in San Miguel being claimed by company chair Eduardo Cojuangco.

"It will not result in any changes in the mix of the San Miguel board, plus the fact is that the case can still be appealed to the Supreme Court," Plana said.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest lender, was unchanged at P27.50 despite announcing that it sold a 40-percent stake in subsidiary Metrobank Card Corp. to ANZ Funds Pty. Ltd., a wholly owned unit of Australia New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. *Reuters*

NINE WEST

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$5B in OFW remittances do not pass through banks, says BSP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that dollar inflow from overseas Filipino workers has been understated by more than $5 billion annually as this amount passed through informal channels like money-changers and couriers.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that billions in offshore workers' remittances did not pass through the banking system and were not being captured by the central bank data.

A central bank official said the understated amount could even exceed the annual remittance that reached $7 billion last year.

Dollar inflow from close to eight million Filipino workers overseas is expected to hit $5 billion by August from $4.521 billion in the first seven months.

"As of August, we are on track with the projected 6-percent growth in OFW remittance this year," said Diwa Guinigundo, BSP managing director for economic research.

The BSP expects OFW remittance to hit $7.6 billion by year's end.

The central bank relies solely on the OFW data from banks to draft its external payments targets. A higher dollar remittance level would help strengthen the peso, particularly toward the Christmas season when families of overseas workers are forced to change their dollars.

"But we do not factor in the remittance coursed through informal channels when we do our targeting. It is a big amount that is so hard to pin down," a senior BSP official said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had said he would ask the BSP to help regulate the informal remittance channels as these could be a potential outlet for money laundering.

Camacho said that from the Middle East alone, 15 percent was being coursed through informal channels.

But the BSP has not decided on whether to put back money shops under its watch or to place them under the supervision of the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

Regulating hundreds of money-changers and remittance centers would give the BSP a better picture of the OFW inflow. But the central bank was reluctant to monitor these money shops as it would involve a tremendous amount of work.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the ideal scenario was to regulate only the big money changers.

The central bank is counting on increased OFW remittances this year to offset the slowdown in foreign direct investments and sluggish exports.

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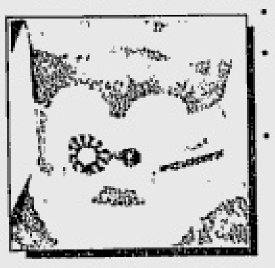

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Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.99980	1.00780

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are [illegible] Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

80 firms eye use of natural gas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AT LEAST 80 industrial companies have expressed interest to absorb the supply of natural gas from the Malampaya production field that will be delivered through a 100-kilometer pipeline from Batangas to Manila, according to PNOC Exploration Corp.

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said in an interview yesterday that this proved expectations of growing demand for the fuel amid moves to develop the local downstream natural gas industry.

"The companies' interest also shows that it is viable for industrial firms to convert from energy sources based on diesel and liquefied petroleum gas to natural gas-based ones," he added.

In a presentation to energy industry players during the PowerTrends 2003 held last month, Bomasang said demand for natural gas was projected to grow by an average of 5.4 percent a year.

The official said demand could reach 198 billion cubic feet (bcf) a year in 2012 from 103 bcf this year.

Yesterday, Bomasang said PNOC-EC was continuing efforts to build the Batangas-Manila natural gas pipeline, which is estimated to cost about $100 million.

"PNOC-EC maintains that it is ready to cooperate with as many partners as there may be to do the project, but we have not reached the stage of talking with any possible partner," he said.

In an interview in last month, Shell Philippines Exploration BV (Spex) deputy managing director Facundo Roco said the Malampaya consortium was putting off new investments until after a law had been passed to regulate the downstream natural gas industry.

Asian export credit agencies push online information exchange

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES yesterday proposed the creation of an online Asian exchange among state-owned export credit agencies (ECAs) to provide a platform for increased trade and investments across the region.

This developed as nine ECAs, including the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency (Philexim), held their 9th annual meeting yesterday with a collective pledge to boost regional cooperation not just in financing trade requirements but in addressing huge infrastructure bottlenecks in Asia as well.

Aside from Philexim, the official government ECA of the Philippines, the meeting was attended by the ECAs of Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia and Thailand. It was hosted by Philexim and the Asian Development Bank, which was integral to the discussions on trade facilitation program.

During the meeting, Philexim president Joel Valdes made a prototype demonstration of the Trade Information Exchange (Tradex) project, which is seen to revolutionize the online exchange of information and closing web-based e-business transactions among the Asian countries.

"Tradex is Philexim's approach to information-matching for buyers and sellers, as well as facilitation of intra-regional trade transactions," Valdes said.

The proposed platform, Valdes said, would enable ECAs to offer their menu of products such as lending, insurance or guarantees to regional users.

The proposal, he said, was in line with a memorandum of understanding signed by Asian ECAs in November 2000 that sought to establish a network of official trade financing cooperation not just for the purpose of facilitating trade but also to:

- strengthen mutual cooperation to sustain trade financing in case of a future financial crisis, and
- provide technical assistance or consultancy requested by participating institutions as well as by countries establishing new official trade finance institutions.

During yesterday's meeting, the Philippines signed a multilateral Letter of Credit (LC) Confirmation Facility Agreement with China while bilateral LC confirmation agreements were signed between Korea and Malaysia and between India and Malaysia.

The LC facility is a mutual guarantee facility among ECAs that could be used as a first-line measure to counter a liquidity crisis, to avoid a situation wherein an LC issued by a local bank in a crisis-hit country is not accepted in the exporting country owing to a drop in the former's credit rating.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who also sits as chair of Philexim, said regional cooperation as exemplified by this group of Asian ECAs would help the region strengthen its economic and financial systems.

"With the lessons learned from the 1997 East Asian crisis and continuing regional and global challenges, we have all come a long way to strengthen our respective economies and domestic systems and institutions," Camacho said.

Manila-C. Luzon transport system draws interest

By Abigail L. Ho

SEVERAL foreign investors have signed an agreement with the Department of Transportation and Communications to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a mass transport system between Manila and Central Luzon.

Under the agreement, American Transport Systems Corp. (ATSC) will organize a team that will conduct a 12-month feasibility study at no cost to the government.

This team of experts will include international transport consultancy firm Systra S.A. and its local subsidiary Systra Philippines, architectural and engineering firm Daniel Mann Johnson and Mendenhall International (DMJM), as well as other international and local consultants.

A report on the results of the study will then be submitted to the DOTC. If qualified, the ASTC can submit its unsolicited proposal, and the DOTC will have an option whether or not to submit to the National Economic and Development Authority-Investment Coordination Committee.

The mass transport project will involve the establishment of a high-speed rail link coupled with a rapid suburban rail and cargo system.

To complete the whole transport network, the project will also include state-of-the-art buses that will be used on the existing North Luzon Expressway (NLEX).

US firms press scrapping of DST

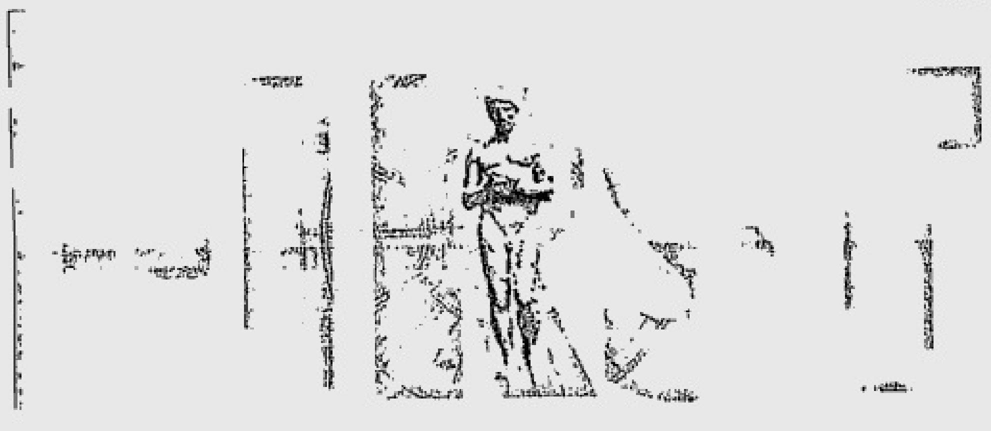
By Michelle V. Remo

AMERICAN companies in the Philippines are hoping the government will be able to immediately pass the DST (documentary stamp tax) rationalization bill, which will allow firms to trim down the cost of selling financial instruments.

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Inc. (Amcham) said it was pushing for the bill's early passage since it was indispensable that economic reforms were put in place before the new administration would come in.

"When we talked to (Sen. Franklin) Drilon, he said the Senate will pass this (DST rationalization bill) soon. We are hoping the bill is indeed passed because DST imposed on secondary transactions discourages the development of the market," Amcham official John Forbes said in a briefing.

The DST is paid as many times an instrument is transferred or resold. Some firms have suggested the removal of the DST on secondary transactions, saying it made financial intermediation costly, discouraged secondary trading and made market uncompetitive.



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Bush dividend

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

IF you notice a sprightly spring in the step of the Westin Philippine Plaza staff these days, it is because the bay area hotel will be home to President Bush's delegation for the Oct. 18 visit of the American leader.

According to the grapevine, Philippine Plaza won the bidding to supply a total of 1,270 room nights for the official and accompanying media delegates, besting the Mandarin, Peninsula, and the Manila Hotel for the bragging rights.

At P4,700/night, that is about P6 million—not counting food and beverage and function room charges—windfall for a visit that officially will last for only eight hours.

The Philippine Plaza's relative isolation—it was also home to Apec officials during the historic summit of Asia-Pacific heads of state during the Ramos years—makes the seaside resort-hotel easier to secure than, say, the partially state-owned Manila Hotel, which has a jeepney and cargo van terminal right behind it.

In addition, the entire Philippine Plaza, from the guest rooms to the ballrooms, is now "wi-fied" for digital, and instant, connection to the outside world, something that the cockroaches in the other hotel do not appreciate.

Still, all is not lost for the fraying Lady by the Bay. According to the grapevine, the Manila Hotel will provide the catering for the Malacañang dinner, in recognition for its long years of serving state and diplomatic functions when it was still The Hotel.

Russian dividend

FIVE years after it defaulted on about $40 billion in domestic bonds, Russia has achieved a momentous turnaround when its credit rating was raised Wednesday by Moody's to investment grade in recognition of the country's much improved economic fundamentals.

According to the grapevine, one of the big winners in the Russian upgrade is taipan John Gokongwei, whose multibillion-peso cash hoard is being managed by retired Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson.

From a conservative bureaucrat, Singson in his retirement has achieved a gunslinger reputation among the small circle of foreign bond traders in the country, betting on an upswing on Russian bonds as early as two years ago.

Having correctly bet on the Russian rebound, the buzz is that Singson has already positioned himself on the arguably more dicey Brazilian papers.

Guess who's calling?

SMART subscribers who bring their cell phones with them to Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand or Australia should be able to have their Philippine caller IDs working in those countries.

As to the United States and other countries, the caller ID service would most likely be dependent on the equipment of the foreign network where the Philippines calls are routed, said Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto, reacting to a Wednesday item here on the same subject.

Right now, the caller ID service is guaranteed for traveling Smart subscribers who select CSL in Hong Kong, Maxis in Malaysia, M1 in Singapore, DTAC in Thailand, and Telstra in Australia as their host networks.

BUSH/ B4

ANNOUNCEMENT

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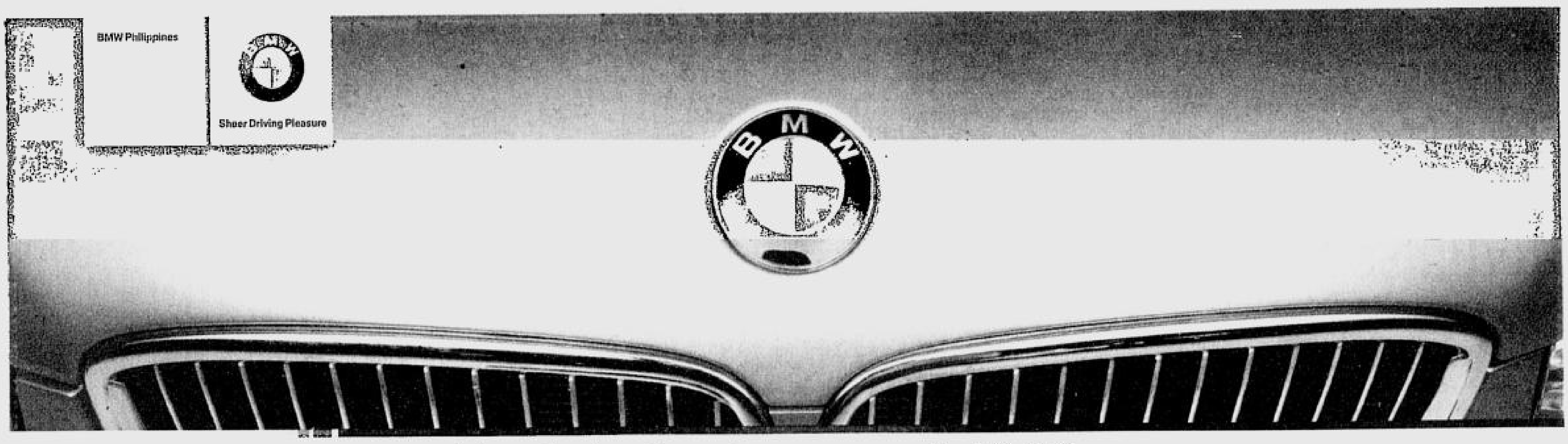

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- BMW was the first to signal its support of the new tax structure by lowering the prices of 316i and 318i models, even before the new tax was implemented.
- BMW signified also that the prices of the 316i and 318i models would not be lowered further, and we remain true to this statement.
- BMW's new re-aligned prices, effective 3 October 2003, support the Government's thrust to lower the prices of passenger cars in the Philippines.
- BMW advises customers that such prices cannot remain indefinitely due to high Peso devaluation against major overseas currencies, most notably the Euro.
- BMW and its Authorized Dealer network provide genuine peace of mind and customer assurance through correctly paid taxes and duties on all its vehicles; full 2-year warranty; emergency roadside assistance; and mobility programs - benefits you will not receive through the grey market!
- BMW Philippines Corporation is a subsidiary of BMW Group, Germany.

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Metrobank sells 40% equity in credit card unit to ANZ Funds

By Elena R. Torrijos

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co., the country's largest lender, yesterday said it had sold a 40-percent stake in Metrobank Card Corp. to ANZ Funds Pty. Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Australia New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Metrobank assistant corporate secretary Antonio Viray said the sale of 141 million shares or 40 percent of MCC's total issued and outstanding shares of 352.56 million would result in a joint venture between the Metrobank Group and ANZ Group.

Metrobank did not disclose the price at which the shares were sold and the other details of the sale. Officials of the bank could not be contacted for comment on the transaction.

Analysts were not impressed by the transaction given that Metrobank was a small player in the fiercely competitive credit card market.

The joint venture may help Metrobank gain a bigger market share but, at present, it was too small to make a difference in the bank's overall business.

Metrobank, controlled by taipan George Ty, is focused mainly on the middle-market. It presently maintains a small portfolio in consumer banking.

In an interview last month, a Metrobank official said the bank would focus on increasing its consumer banking portfolio over the next several years.

As of the close of the second quarter of this year, Metrobank had total assets of P441 billion, capital funds of P51.2 billion and a deposit base of P342.7 billion.

Recently, Metrobank raised $130 million in subordinated notes that qualify as tier two capital.

Lepanto's new project granted fiscal incentives

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BOARD of Investments has approved the registration of Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co.'s newly discovered gold project in Benguet.

The BOI registration entitles the project to fiscal incentives.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Lepanto spokesperson Odette Javier said the company's Victoria II project was classified by the BOI as a "new project on a non-pioneer status."

Among the incentives that will be extended to the project is a four-year income tax holiday, which can be extended by three more years starting April 2004 or beginning the commencement of the project's commercial operations, whichever comes earlier.

She said the approved capacity was placed at 970,570 tons, equivalent to 162,860 ounces of gold per year.

The company announced the discovery of the significant gold deposit in Victoria II in March last year.

The new ore body is located southwest of Lepanto's Victoria I deposit and extends southward for 900 meters towards the Nayak area. The deposit trends northsouth along a series of parallel structures that appear to end in a fault zone separating the northeast trending Victoria I mineralized vein structures.

Unlike the Victoria I, the new deposit was found to contain significantly less sulfide minerals, including copper.

Preliminary results indicated that the resource contained 1.3 million ounces of gold in the 7.3 million tons of resource averaging 5.29 gram per ton. Approximately 1.3 million tons of this resource assaying an average of 6.22 gram of gold per ton are in the mineable and/or proven/probable categories.

PLDT seen getting ₱1.8B in dividends from Smart

By Abigail L. Ho

SMART Communications Inc. is on track to making a P1.8-billion dividend payment to parent firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. by the fourth quarter, bringing its pay-out to 100 percent of its 2002 net income.

ING financial markets research analyst Doris Pardo said in her Oct. 8 report that the mobile phone operator was expected to be able to make another dividend pay-out before the end of the year, following the P4.3-billion dividend payment it made in June.

Smart last year posted a net income of P6.1 billion. The P1.8 billion in dividends to be paid to PLDT this year plus the P4.3 billion already given in June represent 100 percent of the company's income in 2002.

As of end-September, Pardo said Smart's subscriber base was placed at 11.5 million. This included the subscribers of sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp.'s Talk 'N Text brand.

In the second quarter, Smart's churn or disconnection rate was down to 2.7 percent from 4.5 percent in the same period last year.

Talk 'N' Text likewise posted a lower churn rate of less than 4.0 percent in the April-June period from more than 7.5 percent in the same period a year ago.

The PLDT management attributed the lower churn rate to the introduction of new over-the-air prepaid credit loading services that had denominations lower than the existing P300, P500 and P1,000 prepaid phone cards.

In the meantime, rival Globe Telecom Inc. is also expected to post improved churn rates in the third quarter, possibly resulting in better net subscriber additions for the quarter.

Increase in JGSPC capital OKd

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application of JG Summit Petrochemical Corp. to increase its authorized capital to P1.3 billion from P155.67 million.

The petrochemical firm, a joint venture between JG Summit Holdings of the Gokongwei family and Marubeni Corp. of Japan, also got approval for the increase in its subscribed and paid-up capital to P361.75 million.

The capital increase is in line with the plan of its JGSPC shareholders to infuse a total of P7.7 billion into the company. The infusion was meant to reduce the firm's interest expense to make its operations more competitive and viable.

In an earlier disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, JG Summit Holdings said it had commenced the conversion into equity of $100 million worth of loans it had extended to the petrochemical unit.

Marubeni, which owns 20 percent of JGSPC, was to assume a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and also convert it into equity.

With the debt-to-equity conversion, JG Petrochem is expected to have a stronger balance sheet, capital base and cash flow.

A leading polyethylene and polypropylene manufacturer in the country with sales of P4 billion in 2001, JGSPC had been burdened by loan interest and principal payments.

Its operating margins had been adversely affected by rampant smuggling, misdeclaration of imports, and low consumption growth brought about by prevailing domestic economic conditions. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Media seen as key to good governance

By Ernesto M. Ordonez

COMMENTARY

ERIC Castro (not his real name) was still skeptical. He was not convinced that political will and private sector involvement would bring back hope to our nation. He cited cases where *polites* (the Greek word for people who care for their community) in the government had shown political will and were backed up with private sector involvement. But in several of these cases, powerful *idiotes* (the Greek word for selfish people who do not care for and even harm the community) in the government, often with the connivance of other *idiotes* in the private sector, won over them.

"What can tip the balance of power in favor of the *polites*?" he asked. "Possibly media," I answered. "Not all the time, but often enough to consider media as a key to good governance." We then discussed two cases where media made the difference: one in industry, the other in agriculture.

Substandard steel bars

In 1989, then Director Renato Navarette of the DTI's Bureau of Product Standards had a problem. Out of 28 firms manufacturing steel bars, approximately half were violating the minimum safety standards. This meant that if strong typhoons or earthquakes occur, these bars might collapse and even cause the loss of lives. Navarette showed political will by ordering the closure of these firms unless they followed the required standards. The legitimate steel bar manufacturers showed private sector involvement by helping formulate these standards. But very few firms were closed down during the previous 17 years.

Then media was used. Almost overnight, the climate changed. Over the radio, an announcement was made that any person could submit directly to a specified high level DTI official any substandard steel bar he found in a hardware store. It was explained that any steel bar without a company logo was substandard, so identifying this was easy. A commitment was made over the airwaves that charges would be made against the erring company within three days.

Several people responded. The legitimate companies, some of whom feared retaliation from *idiotes* politicians and government officials under the payroll of the violating companies, got other people to submit substandard steel bars. Soon enough, four companies were charged, found guilty, and were shut down. One lost more than P2 million a day in foregone revenue as it retooled to meet the required standards.

After this, the media was again used. The erring companies were identified in newspapers, television and radio. As a result, something quite unexpected happened. Three additional firms had gone to Director Navarette paying the penalty and shutting themselves down voluntarily. "Why did they do that?" I asked Navarette. "You haven't caught them yet!" He replied, "These firms said they did not want to be identified publicly in media. They would lose face and customer patronage. They also risked the loss of credit from their banks, as what was happening to other erring firms." Within three months, there were no more firms producing substandard steel bars.

Smuggled vegetables

Last year, the media played a crucial role in stopping smuggled carrots from China. These carrots not only posed health hazard to consumers since they did not pass quarantine inspection but also unfair competition to local carrot farmers. Sold wholesale at P4 a kilo, they brought down the wholesale price of our domestic carrots to the same level, which was way below our farmers' P10 break-even price. This resulted in a great loss of income and much hardship for several Cordillera farmers.

Benguet Governor Raul Molintas, Mountain Province Governor Sario Malinias and La Trinidad Mayor Maur Fongwan showed political will in seeking action against the smugglers despite their political connections. Dionisio Martes, Edison Simeon and other farmer leaders showed private sector involvement in showing how to identify the smuggled carrots. But for almost one month, nothing happened.

Then the media got involved. Similar to the steel bar case mentioned earlier, announcements were made on radio for consumers to call a hotline identifying the location of these smuggled carrots. How to identify these carrots was also explained. This provided the necessary leads for the subsequent apprehensions that were made. The guilty parties were identified in the media at all levels: retailers, traders and importers. The smuggling chain was broken, largely because of media help.

In a related incident, when an important partner of the Cordillera farmers was moved out of Customs and another person the farmers suspected of smuggling was placed in a key position, the farmers' apprehensions of more smuggling was covered in the newspapers. Aware of this, the prospective smugglers did not proceed with their plans. Because of such media involvement and other measures implemented by *polites* such as Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo, smuggling of vegetables and other agricultural products delivered in refrigerated containers dropped from 40 percent violation to 16 percent after six weeks and to less than 1 percent after three months.

Conclusion

In both cases described above, Eric suggested that without the media's help, the *idiotes* would have probably prevailed over the *polites*. "This is because often, the *idiotes* in the private sector have connections with *idiotes* in high places of the government, many of whom they fund," Eric said.

But with the media as their ally, Eric and I agreed, the *polites* can win over the *idiotes*. Recognizing this, the *polites* in government should systematically plan a partnership with the media in every major undertaking. Eric concluded that the media provided the missing link for political will and private sector involvement to be successful in bringing about good governance and consequently, hope to our beleaguered nation.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of Agriculture and Trade and Industry and former chair/cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635)

INTEREST RATES

October 9, 2003
MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 9-Oct-03	MART1 8-Oct-03
1 Month	6.2696	6.2411
3 Months	6.2643	6.2536
6 Months	7.0607	7.2067
1 Year	7.9464	7.9517
2 Years	8.6857	8.8617
3 Years	9.6288	9.7019
4 Years	10.0554	10.1163
5 Years	10.3518	10.3839
7 Years	10.9679	11.0433
10 Years	11.1692	11.1946
20 Years	11.9107	11.9267
25 Years	12.2089	12.2333

SOURCE MART/BLOOMBERG

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 9, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	18	17.5	18	16,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	42.5	43.5	42.5	43.5	681,800
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33	32.5	33	123,000
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.71	0.71	45,260,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	27.5	176,500
Prudential Bank	400	400	400	400	1,390
Philippine National Bank	25.5	26	25.5	26	90,000
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13	13	13	13	10,000
Security Bank Corp.	19	19	19	19	600
Union Bank of the Phil.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	13,600
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	30,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	4.1	4.1	4	4	1,682,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	845,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1235	1245	1235	1240	2,020
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	1,500
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	705	700	700	29,090
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.048	8,300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.72	0.74	0.72	0.73	1,470,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	685	675	680	249,040
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	140,000
Philweb Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.012	0.013	641,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.5	13.75	14.5	392,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.25	21.5	3,262,100
Petron Corp.	2	2.02	1.98	2.02	1,990,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.9	2	1.9	2	2,040,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.85	2.8	2.85	2,535,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	70,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	100,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30	30	30	30	2,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.5	135,300
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54	53.5	54	89,500
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61	60.5	61	54,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.65	4.7	4.65	4.7	538,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.35	3,131,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.031	3,400,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	240,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	13,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	36,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.6	3,970,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	2,200,000
F&J Prince Hldgs. B	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.5	18	344,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	46,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.04	2.04	2.04	2.04	22,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	360,000
Medco Holdings	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.93	0.96	0.93	0.96	2,690,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	40,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	3,870,000
Music Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	450,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	780,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	44,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	80,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2	2	2	2	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	4,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.57	0.58	1,150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	90,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	320,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27	27	27	27	48,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,200
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	39,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	2,970,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.24	900,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.06	1.1	2,913,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	30,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	190,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	9,711,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.22	0.2	0.22	310,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	720,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.26	0.26	7,260,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	196,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	170,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	79,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	400,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	70,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	31,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	160,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	600,000

DISCLOSURES

LMG Chemicals Corp. bought all the shares of Chemical Industries of the Philippines Inc. and Chemphil Marketing Corp. in Kemwater Philippine Corp. for P30 million.

***

APEX Mines Co. Inc. denied having any information that could explain the increase in share price.

***

REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp. declared a cash dividend of P0.15 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Oct. 24 and will be payable on Nov. 18.

***

MAGNUM Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 19, 3 p.m. at Unit 3C of Cypress Gardens Condominium, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of Dec. 11 will be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved the change in the name of Lodestar Mining Corp. to Lodestar Investment Holdings Corp. Also approved were the change of the company's primary purpose from a mining to an investment holding company; reduction in the number of directors from 10 to seven and the declassification of its shares and denial of preemptive right to subscribe to future issues or disposition of shares.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Cocktales

From page B3

Smart is still working on reciprocal agreements with American and foreign carriers to guarantee that the local caller ID service would work even overseas, unlike the on-and-off service available today, depending on the kind of telephonic equipment a Philippine call happens to be routed at a particular time through the foreign network.

Heard through the grapevine

CEMENT scion Jose Cortes Jr. will finally be named chair of the Government Service Insurance System to replace ex-Justice Hermogenes Concepcion Jr., an Erap appointee who has agreed to cut short his fixed term so he could finally devote more time to his more lucrative Banco Filipino consultancy. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

CURRENCIES

October 9, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.846310088	1.000000	54.994000
Japan	Yen	0.007722	0.009124	0.501800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.408599	1.664400	91.532000
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109482	0.129364	7.114200
Switzerland	Franc	0.64471	0.761789	41.893800
Canada	Dollar	0.634463	0.749681	41.228000
Singapore	Dollar	0.491327	0.580552	31.926900
Australia	Dollar	0.58463	0.690799	37.989800
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.244974	2.652661	145.880400
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225677	0.266660	14.664700
Brunei	Dollar	0.489904	0.578871	31.834400
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000120	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.021589	0.025510	1.402900
UAE	Dirham	0.230432	0.272279	14.973700
Euro	Euro	1	1.181600	64.980900
Argentina	Peso	0.294882	0.348432	19.161700
Brazil	REAL	0.297473	0.351494	19.330100
Denmark	Kroner	0.134549	0.158983	8.743100
India	Rupee	0.018666	0.022056	1.212900
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.222743	0.263193	14.474000
Mexico	New Peso	0.074964	0.088578	4.871300
New Zealand	Dollar	0.505682	0.597514	32.859700
Norway	Kroner	0.12165	0.143742	7.904900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014723	0.017397	0.956700
Korea	Won	0.000736	0.000870	0.047800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02512	0.029682	1.632300

CORPORATE SURVEY RESULT

Poor governance seen as economy's No.1 problem

By Michelle V. Remo

THE QUALITY of politics and governance in the country continues to be a major deterrent to government efforts to boost economic growth and attract foreign investments.

According to the preliminary results of the 2003 Annual Corporate Survey of think tank Wallace Business Forum, respondent firms consider corruption, political instability, peace and order problems, red tape and inconsistency of government policies as the biggest problems besetting businesses in the country.

"It's the quality of government that continues to be the primary setback for the country's economic performance," said Peter Wallace, president of the Wallace Business Forum, during a forum on the state of Philippine competitiveness held recently at the Asian Institute of Management.

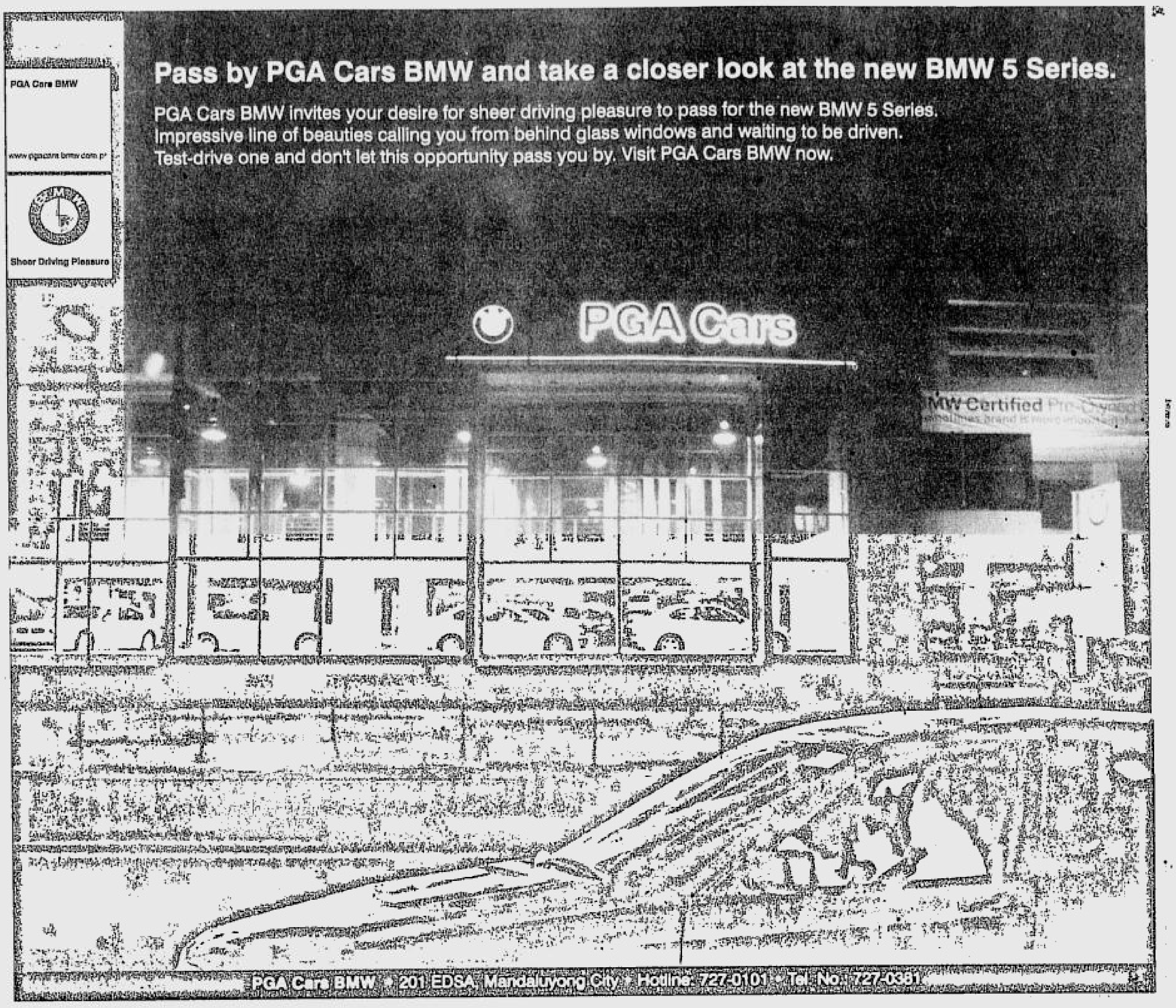
To complete the list of factors considered as major deterrents to business, multinational companies surveyed also cited poor infrastructure, high cost of doing business, economic instability, currency fluctuations, lack of political will to implement policies, market size, and the kind of justice system.

Due to these factors, the 36 multinational companies that participated in the survey said the Philippines compared poorly with its counterparts in the region in the area of investments. Only about 20 percent of the respondents said they were supportive of the idea of pouring in new investments in the Philippines.

The survey indicated that China, Thailand and India outperformed the Philippines in terms of being a preferred investment site.

The survey noted that the Philippines' 25-year average gross domestic product growth was only at 3.5 percent, which was lower than China's 9.7 percent, Korea's 7.8 percent, Singapore's 7.7 percent, Malaysia's 6.8 percent, Thailand's 6.5 percent and Indonesia's 5.4 percent.

The corporate survey complemented the recently released World Competitiveness Survey conducted by the international survey agency International Management Development (IMD), which showed that the Philippines' competitiveness slipped four notches to 22nd spot this year from 18 last year among 30 economies.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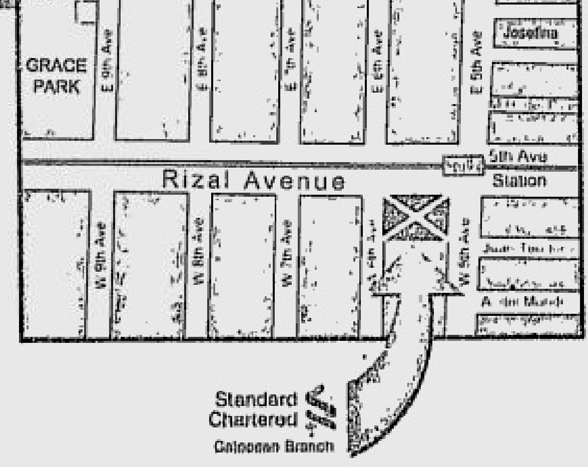

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BUSINESS Friday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

What mall magnates know about shoppers

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

MALLS here have come a long way since the advent of the Ali Mall in Cubao in the '70s. Today the youth of major cities take malls for granted. And oh, the size of these structures. Think of it: we have a mall here that is so huge that two MRT stations flank it.

The following are some notes on mall marketing, as drawn from research findings.

Malls fit RP economy

The Philippine economy tends to plod along. The country posts moderate growth while her Asian neighbors are either contracting sharply or growing spectacularly. Part of the reason is a large domestic market of some 78 million people. Retail sales thus comprise a hefty 40 percent of gross domestic product.

Secondly, the population is mainly young: around half of the Filipino people are under 18 years old. Families thus go to the malls for their Sunday treat. It is most convenient for the parents - in one sprawling complex you have movies, food, and shopping facilities.

The data show that the top retail channels are the malls. Hence the SM Group has been on expansion mode. It wants to build seven mega malls and lay out 2.7 million square meters of retail space by 2004.

Retail competition looms

The malls are responding to the challenges posed by the Retail Trade Liberalization Law. Foreign competition in retail is now welcome, so local players have to muscle up and expand their networks. Price Smart is now in, and Walmart, and TESCO may follow soon.

The average shopper uses up four to five hours when in a mall, hence malls are trying to promote entertainment-based retailing. That is, your family goes to a mall to have a good time, and thus ends up spending on fun activities besides shopping.

Retailers are also adjusting to the consumer's desire to be served 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Malls include bistros outside the building which cater to customers beyond closing time.

Flea markets or "tiangges" sell cheap clothes and even cheaper used garments. They cater to those trying to cut costs. Malls respond to this competition by setting up "surplus" shops which sell second-hand clothes.

MEGAMALL, owned by Henry Sy, flanks two MRT stations.

Food is first priority

A major pillar of any mall is the supermarket, and rightly so. For the biggest slice of the family budget goes to food, at 43.7 percent of the purse, as of the 2000 expenditure survey. As the nation develops, this food ratio will shrink. But culture helps prop it up, for Filipinos eat five times a day: two merienda sessions to complement breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

The ranks of the working women are rising. With less time on their hands, and with fewer maids available (the usual development trend) mothers turn to food packages that are easy to prepare. Pre-cooked and ready-to-eat meals are valued.

When times are hard, home makers prefer small packs as they part with less cash. Another response is the substitution effect. Iced tea is enjoying brisk sales, for Filipinos regard iced tea as a cheaper substitute to soft drinks.

The nation remains a net importer of food products, especially raw materials bought by the manufacturing sector. The Philippines is Australia's second most important Asia Pacific market, after Japan, for milk powder.

Imports: niche to the rich

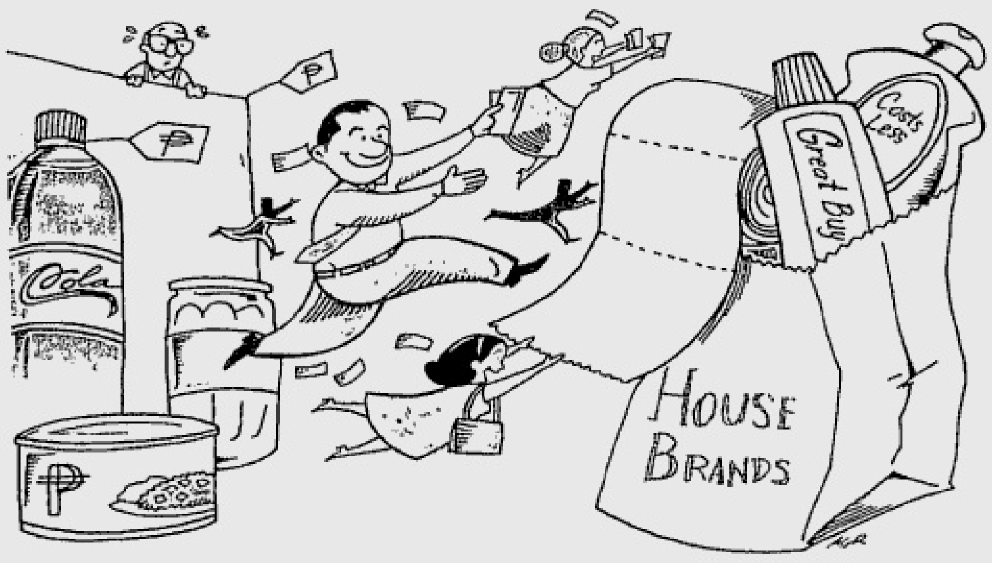
Malls sell lots of imported consumer goods as well. Research has found that in the Asia Pacific region, consumers in the Philippines show the highest regard for imported goods. Western colonialism and the influence of mass media have long underpinned this trend. A more recent impetus is the diaspora of Filipinos across the globe. When they come home to visit they bring with them their brand preferences.

In malls, it is best to use niche marketing for the more pricey imports. Purchasing power is three to four times greater in Metro Manila. Seeing growing urbanization and the rising affluence of the top strata, marketers will find opportunities for imported food and beverage. To benefit from the trend will be confectionery, wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and meat products.

Wine is much less popular than beer, taking up the smallest slice of the nation's market for alcohol drinks. This is because wine is seen mainly as a luxury, a treat for the richer strata. Neither are Filipinos well-educated on wine. Hence, wine is often consumed on-premise in restaurants and hotels rather than off-premise in the homes.

And yet wine has been gaining ground among yuppies since the 1990s. "New world" wines from Chile, Australia and South Africa are starting to catch on. Demand is growing, and the market offers the most promise for budget wines and those in the mid-price range. Note that 80 percent of the wine market is found in Metro Manila, and that Filipinos prefer red wine to white, by a ratio of 3:1.

Comments to <darroyo@philonline.com>



Cheap chic: The steady rise of house brands

By Divina C. Paredes
Contributor

Auckland, New Zealand—While doing postgraduate studies in Sydney five years ago, I lived in a flat across a shopping centre. I had two choices to go for my groceries—Woolworths and Franklins. The first is the quintessential supermarket containing all the brand names. Franklins carries the No Frills line (Stark packaging and lower prices). Subsisting on a monthly stipend from my scholarship, the answer to which store I patronized was a no-brainer.

For one-and-a-half years, I bought the No Frills range from my toothpaste to bread. I saved quite a bundle that allowed me to enjoy more sights in Sydney that my limited budget would otherwise have allowed me to.

When I moved to Auckland, I continued to patronize the No Frills range although this time cost was not the primary reason. Like most shoppers who have tried the house-brands, I had noticed there was scant (if any) difference in their quality with their counterparts carrying the better known, if more prestigious names.

It came as no surprise to me, then, when a slew of recent reports from market analysts and business media, noted an increase in consumers switching to the lower priced house brands.

"Paying for image is passé. Paying little is fashionable," stated Forrester Research. The US-based analyst firm said in a recent report the slow economy has made consumers more "gun shy" when it comes to paying more for brand names.

In a recent issue, Fortune Magazine likewise declared store brands aren't for losers anymore. "In fact, they're downright sizzling." Fortune pointed out more and more consumers are bypassing the national brands that have been part and parcel of American households for decades, in favor of the lower priced in-house brands. And, it added, this shift is scaring the pants off major consumer goods companies.

The slowdown of the North American economy in the past three years is a major factor for this development. For instance, in the "go-go year" of 2000, 41 percent of consumers Forrester surveyed in North America said price was more important than brand name, and 22 percent said they would shell out more for a product consistent with an image they liked.

But following the slowdown of the economy, the consumers' priorities changed. In 2001 and 2002, 45 per cent said price was more important than brand name and fewer than 20 per cent said they were willing to pay more for image.

This year, only 18 percent said they will pay more to have just the right brand for their image, and 47 per cent said price is more important than brand.

Forrester does not see this trend abating, with the US experiencing its highest unemployment rate since 1994. "Consumers of all classes live in constant fear of coming to work one day only to get a pink slip," wrote Forrester analyst Christopher M. Kelley. "Until folks feel confident that they won't lose their jobs and they'll be able to pay their mortgages, this trend will become even more pronounced."

The house-brand phenomenon is likewise reaching the Southern Hemisphere. The Warehouse, the New Zealand chain of discount stores, recently announced it is planning to introduce house brand groceries.

Coles Myers, a supermarket chain in Australia, also reported it is expanding the number of house brand products in its Coles Supermarkets and Bi-Lo stores. Franklins is also expanding its No Frills range.

In the Philippines, the SM group started its own house brand with SM bonus a few years ago. The brand is doing well. Hypermart Shopwise also has its own brand. National Bookstore has its Best Buy brand.

The rise of house brands has implications for both the retailers and manufacturers as both house brands and traditional brands share the supermarket shelves.

Retailers, noted Fortune, are now behaving like full-fledged marketers. The manufacturers of traditional brands, meanwhile, have to employ a host of marketing strategies to keep their products top of mind among consumers.

The marketing departments of both sides must now be working in a frenzy, as they race to capture the hearts, minds and pockets of today's savvy and pragmatic consumers.

However one looks at it, the consumer is the ultimate winner in this raging supermarket revolution.

Employee buzz can attract a swarm of loyal customers

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DOESN'T it feel so much better, as a consumer, to go into a shop where the salesladies have a ready, sincere smile and make that extra effort to make you feel "at home" in their establishment?

Chances are, with that kind of service, you would go to that place again or perhaps come away with more than what you intended to purchase.

Establishments like these are what British author and customer service expert David Freemantle likes to describe as companies that have learned how to create a "buzz" among the employees, so that the service they deliver attracts customers.

The "buzz" refers to that palpable energy that emanates from the employees that make customers stay loyal, give large tips or even be willing to pay extra for what that store sells, even if there are stores that sell the same goods and services at a cheaper price.

"When there's a buzz, things happen. Organizations that do not have customer relationships lack energy and enthusiasm," Freemantle tells the INQUIRER in an interview.

Freemantle is one of the world's leading authorities on motivation and customer service. He has written 12 business books, which have been published in 18 languages. He has worked with companies in Africa, the United Kingdom and in the United States.

He stresses that it is the ability to create lasting relationships with customers that would ultimately determine if a company would survive over the long term as competition becomes fiercer and consumer choices increase.

"It is relatively easy to compete on product and price but the most difficult thing is to compete on service. It is people that provide service and this means having Asian people who understand what competing on service really means in practice," Freemantle says.

He explains that competing on service would require a sincere desire to serve customers and this means having a passion that comes from the heart.

DAVID Freemantle

Freemantle shares his experience with a Chinese restaurant in Manila, where one of the waiters took the time to help him get acquainted with the different kinds of seafood that he would cook himself 'steamboat' style.

"I think he saw that I looked lost, a foreigner who looked like he went into the wrong restaurant. But he helped me," Freemantle says.

With an experience like that, he says customers would likely go back asking for more of that kind of service and sensitivity to the customer.

"It is the little things really that go a long way but many companies do not realize this, that they need to create lasting relationships if they are to profit, be it a bank, a simple coffee shop or a bookstore," Freemantle says.

He says forging personal relationships with customers was a surefire way to keeping them loyal, given the competition in the market.

"You tend to go where you are liked, so if a company wants to develop a business, they have to discover the customers' needs," he says.

He cited the example of Starbucks, which took coffee drinking to another level, making it grow into a giant global company within 15 years even if people around the world have been drinking coffee for over 500 years.

"They sold an experience and people buy an experience. They buy the totality, not just the coffee but the ambiance, the service and the relationship they were able to build with that store," he says.

"Like they said, they are not serving coffee, they are serving people and that is what's important," he adds.

Freemantle says that companies and organizations from all over the world have forgotten about the power of consumer relationships, probably due to the more intense focus on income, cost reduction and finances.

"But I say that to be excellent in business, you have to get the people thing right. Getting them to perform and to motivate them is an art form. It is not easy. It is all about heart, emotions, relationships and communication," he says.

Freemantle says Singapore Airlines is one company that put premium on service, which was one major reason it was named one of the best airline companies in the world.

Singapore Airlines adopted a program, called 'yes to exceptional service' and with that as a guide, everybody from the crew on the ground to the stewardesses became conscious of what they had to do to service their customers. And it starts from the candies at the immigration counter, to the clean, bright airport surroundings and to the readiness of the Singapore Airlines people to help a customer in need.

"Singapore was able to do this because they know that they are always competing with other countries," he says.

Philippines companies, he stresses, must adopt the same attitude to get ahead of the competition and it starts from taking a sincere interest in people, in looking for what they need and filling that need through service that comes from the heart.

Call to entrepreneurs amid the crisis

IN THE midst of the countless socio-economic problems our country is experiencing right now, it is often the ordinary folks who bear the brunt of all these.

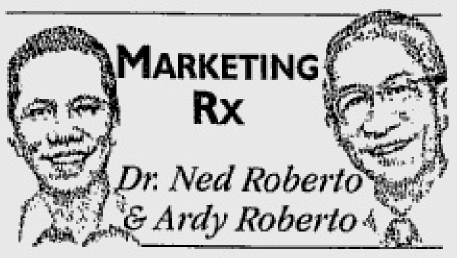
As a coping mechanism, majority of them are out looking for extra source of income order to meet their basic needs.

The time has come for every Filipino with an entrepreneurial spirit to make a difference. Now is the time to challenge the entrepreneurial will and to let the entrepreneurial spirit burning in all of us.

Crunch times...hard times...CHALLENGING times! The 3rd Kapihang EntrePinoy themed "Entrepreneurial Opportunities" on Oct. 16, 2003, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Senden hall of the Asian Social Institute aims to gather and provide entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs with new and innovative prospects to become competitive in these trying times.

For early registration, please call the entrepreneurship service hotlines at (02) 525-6268, 523-9776, 524-1879, text/mobile 0916-303-7443; e-mail address: cse@pacific.net.ph www.csentrepinoy.org

Wanted: Social marketers for public office



LAST week's column was triggered by the question fielded to us by an ex-celebrity at a dinner party: How can marketing help me win an election?

Anyway, we left off the column with the seemingly idealistic notion that public officials should look at their constituents as customers. That they should be social marketers. We defined the very essence of the social marketing concept as: satisfying the priority needs and wants of constituents/customers and relating to them better than before and even better than now. Local officials as social marketers should see themselves as customer/constituent relationship managers.

As we mentioned last week, as typical of the times, systematically and scientifically getting citizens' feedbacks was a concern of elected officials only before election but not after.

Malacañang takes interest in social marketing...Not!

Over the following years after that city mayor's project, the senior MRx was given several opportunities to bring the Social Marketing project to the national level. The first was through the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) of the Aquino government. In January of 1988, MRx met with the PMS and they asked me: "What 'market' research program can help PMS in serving the Office of the President?"

Our answer was long and an almost pedantic sounding answer:

"The 'marketing' aspects of the PMS work are concerned with managing those aspects of social projects meant to satisfy citizen needs better than how they were satisfied before or are being satisfied now. To do this job correctly and effectively, PMS must base its plans and actions on a continuing anticipatory reading of the citizens' likely as well as actual responses to project elements.

"It follows that the appropriate research program for PMS is one that enables it to have that continuing anticipatory reading of the total citizens' response behavior toward the social programs of the Office of the President. In saying this, I am essentially proposing a social marketing and a social marketing research framework to answer your question."

This project reached the point of inclusion in the agenda for presentation to the President during one of her cabinet meetings. This was after MRx had trained the survey and research staff of the PMS and the PIA (Philippine Information Agency). But it never was presented to the President for reasons that we prefer not to discuss.

There were about seven more attempts and requests made by the powers in Malacanang, from the Aquino government up to the current Arroyo administration to set-up a social marketing system. Notable was one invitation in June 1, 2001, when the Office of the President asked MRx to immediately implement the citizens' feedback survey for the President's SONA (State of the Nation Address) and subsequently to use it for pretesting the President's many proposed development initiatives. We were asked to write a formal proposal. But nothing came out of this "invitation".

Curiously, there were no invitations made during Erap's time. (We wonder why!)

It took all these years for MRx to learn the obvious lesson. Something like this cannot, or will have a very difficult time to, prosper at the national level. There are just too many people around a national leader who are managing what each is sincerely convinced is good for that leader and therefore also good for their individual position. It's human nature. At the level that they have reached, these are people managing their respective position.

In addition, this was not the kind of project that can command a national government head's personal and direct attention. Recall the words of the PMS head: "What can you do to help PMS serve the Office of the President?" The boss is the national government head, not the citizen. And this is not a criticism. Everyone in the national government below the head is working for that head. Many earnestly want the head to succeed and to do a good job. Others are managing their position more than the individual responsibilities of that government position.

If nobody paid attention to this governance perspective that we were advocating, MRx would have stopped and accepted that social marketing had indeed no place in helping good local governance. But there were believers who came and asked if the Sr. MRx could help them do better governance. One of them, Governor Josie dela Cruz of the province of Bulacan, in fact dared to apply this idea of constituent-responsive governance in as thorough and consistent a manner that went beyond all expectations. What was most important in this adoption was not that a practitioner of local governance did something. The truly genuine payoff was in witnessing Bulacan's citizens become better off than before, a little happier than before, and persuaded that there was still hope to have a government who would do good things and better things for its constituents, and not just once but on a continuing basis.

That is where the difference is at the local level or at least in the province of Bulacan. In this place, MRx was talking directly to the head, Governor Josie dela Cruz, herself. And for this head of this local government, the boss is the citizen. That was why she took a hands-on commitment to the project. From the time that she sat through MRx's two-day Citizen's Feedback seminar and workshop uninterrupted—taking notes and listening with her staff, we knew that Gov. Josie was different. She was really hands-on and that was the crucial difference.

Meanwhile, the social marketing project in Bulacan took an exciting full-blown state of implementation. The benefits of implementing the social marketing project in Bulacan was the subject the book authored by the senior MRx, How to Make Local Governance Work: Listening to the Citizen's Voice and Taking Action (AIM Publications, 2002.)

In a nutshell, Governor Josie, who has a double major from the Ateneo de Manila in Management Engineering (Cum Laude 1980) and Psychology (Magna Cum Laude 1981), has won for her province local and international awards for good governance including the Konrad-Adenauer Local Governance Award (1999), the Presidential Lingkod Bayan Award (1999) and the Galing Pook Award (2000) for Bulacan's "re-invention of public service." In the last election, she won by a "landslide" because no one dared run against her for governor.

Bulakenos love her because she literally listens to them. As governor, she does periodic social marketing surveys every six months. She uses surveys to check on the likely reactions of her customers/constituents to some of her major development initiatives. Governor Josie's uncommon common sense told her that "it's better to look before you jump." She appreciated the wisdom of learning what citizens like and do not like about her provincial government's planned project before and after launching it. Knowing what to change and improve before a project is put into action enabled her to know what aspects of a project to highlight or reinforce because these are liked and what to correct or improve because these are the aspects that citizens dislike. Her award winning projects and programs had the benefit of these constituency-responsive feedback checks.

So shall we never see the day when the head of the national government will do a Governor Josie?

The easy answer is of course to say that we shall, if Governor Josie becomes the President. The better answer is to say that we shall, if that President takes a personal and direct hand at managing this system of listening to the voice of his or her constituents, his or her true boss.

Remember the celebrity who asked us the question, "What can marketing do to help me get elected?" Well he gave us a glimpse of things to come if he were to win. We asked his wife why her husband decided to run for public office. She matter-of-factly said, "Well, it will be good for business."

Ay-yayay! Here we go again....Dear God, deliver us from evil please!

Feedback at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com

Facing tax mapping

By Arlene A. Ching
SGV & Co

TAX-FILES

INTENSFIED tax mapping activities for the last few months became the subject of a number of news articles, where lists of business establishments found to be not complying with our tax laws were published.

The violators were directed to report to the Regional Office having jurisdiction over their business to explain their side and to pay the applicable penalty.

Tax mapping causes so much stir within the business community. So, what is tax mapping?

"Tax Mapping is one of the programs of the BIR being implemented to reduce the level of tax evasion."

When asked as to their idea of the extent of this on-site administrative search, the taxpayer can ask the BIR on the relevant issuances and tax laws that could be used as guidelines and limitations for the tax mapping activities.

This article will suggest guidelines, which the taxpayer can use to check whether he complied with the tax laws relevant to tax mapping.

For starters, one must be prepared to answer the following questions:

1. Have you paid your Registration Fee for 2003?
2. Is the Certificate of Registration (Original) displayed?
3. Is the Notice to the Public (Original) displayed?
4. Have you registered invoices/or receipts?
5. What are the types of receipts/or invoices being used and what is the last invoice issued?
6. Are you using a Cash Register Machine?
7. Are all Cash Register Machines with permits?
8. Are books of accounts registered?
9. Is the recording updated?
10. Are you using computerized books of accounts?

One must be ready with other information the tax mappers may inquire on, such as:

1. Nature of business
2. Registered tax type
3. Year business operated
4. Number of sales personnel
5. Total number of employees
6. Is the space rented? How much is monthly rental?
7. Name and address of accountants or bookkeepers

Below is the possible list of violations a taxpayer may consciously or unconsciously commit. Except for item A below where the taxpayer is required to register within 24 hours from receipt of a letter indicating the taxpayer's violation, the taxpayer or its authorized representative are advised to appear before the RDO with jurisdiction over the establishment within five days from receipts of the said letter for them to present their side and pay the corresponding penalty.

A. Registration Requirement

a. Failure to register

b. Failure to renew registration

c. No certificate of registration displayed

d. No "Notice to the Public" displayed

B. Invoicing Requirements

a. Failure to issue receipts/invoices

i. Failure to issue receipts/invoices

ii. Failure to register

iii. Last entry to the receipts/ invoices is dated unreasonably long time ago

iv. No receipts/invoices is found in the business premises

b. Refusal to issue receipts/invoices

c. Duplicate copy of the receipts/invoices is blank

d. Discrepancy in the receipts/invoices amount per taxpayer's copy vs. purchaser's copy

e. Possession or use of unregistered receipts/invoices

f. Possession or use of multiple sets of receipts/invoices

g. Incomplete information in the receipt/invoices

h. Receipts/invoices used are other than the place where it is registered

i. Use of unregistered Cash Register Machine (CRM) and/or Point of Sales Machine (POS) or similar device

j. Failure to maintain cash register machine's sales books

k. Failure to register cash register machine's books

l. Failure to register CRM as cash depository only

m. Cash depository CRM is used for issuing sales receipts/invoices

n. Failure to attach or paste original sticker in the machine authorizing the use of the CRM/POS or similar device

o. Failure to attach or paste original sticker in the machine authorizing the use of the CRM for cash depository only

p. Failure to display permit issued by. the RDO (for CRM/POS or similar device)

q. Failure to record daily sales to cash register machine's sales books not later than the following business day

r. Failure to provide CRM with two roller tapes

s. Failure to notify the Revenue District Office prior to the transfer of CRM/POS or similar device to other business location

t. Use of CRM/POS or similar device in a place other than specified in the permit

C. Bookkeeping Requirements

a. Failure to register books of accounts

b. Failure to keep books of accounts at the place of business

c. Failure to make daily entries in the registered books of accounts

The above guidelines put into simple terms the technical and sometimes intimidating tax laws and issuances. Any entrepreneur would now realize that the requirements of the controversial tax mapping activities are reasonable and they would indeed facilitate the tax collection efforts of our government. A taxpayer should not use ignorance as an excuse for non-compliance of his obligations to the State. It is upon us to know our duties so that we will have the moral ascendancy to demand the realization of a Strong Republic.

The 22 laws of successful public relations practice

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

1. **LAW of Timing**—When it seems that there is no other career choice, and when your heart and soul say so, you take the plunge. You bid goodbye to being an employee at the prime of your life. Don't wait till you are 60. You need strong knees for office hopping and good eyes to digest piles and piles of information.

2. **Law of the Turtle**—Behold the turtle! It only makes progress when it sticks its neck out. You can't hedge between the safety of employment and the risk of a sideline. A text message is instructive for the would-be practitioner: "One of the hardest decisions in life is to choose what bridges to cross and what to burn."

3. **Law of All-Season Friends**—When the lean months come, that's the time you need all-season, not fair-weather, friends. When the office phones don't ring, access your friends' directory to ring in new clients. Nowadays, you have the expandable cell phone directory to accommodate your growing network.

4. **Law of Anteroom and Boardroom**— You know you are getting ahead in your PR practice when you are ushered directly into the boardroom from the usual anteroom. Don't lose patience while waiting at the visitors' lounge. You will get your simple rewards: an understanding smile from the secretary, a cup of instant coffee from the pantry attendant—and, who knows, a retainer agreement.

5. **Law of Invisibility**—If you are a ghost writer, remain invisible. Don't compete with your client for recognition. Remember, you have already settled that you have no ego problem. After all, the client gets the fame; you get the fortune.

6. **Law of Having Fun**—When you have fun doing your work, funds will not be far behind. Money is only a side benefit to experiencing joy in achievement. Turning in an excellent work is the first reward. That's why you should have a mix between "fund" and "fun" clients.

7. **Law of Mastery**—When your client calls you, you are the ready mentor and he/she is the willing learner. Professional practice means you are viewed, rightly or wrongly, as an "expert." But, don't rub it in.

8. **Law of Lifelong Learning**—The moment you stop learning, you leave the high road of excellence and take the low road of mediocrity. PR, as a multi-disciplinary profession, requires much reading and learning—anywhere.

9. **Law of Showing Up**—Eighty percent of your success is showing up; twenty percent is not showing off. The first clause is a Woody Allen quote; the second is mine. Show even at the wedding of the Chairman's daughter (even if you are not the groom!).

10. **Law of Majoring in Major Costs**— In billing clients, concentrate on the major costs; since collecting on small items is "majoring in the minors." Some PR firms bill clients for taxi fares, copying costs, etc., when larger figures can absorb all conceivable minor cost items. Clients are annoyed by such little particulars.

11. **Law of the Signature Hat**—When you are ready, have multiple hats handy for the client's increasing needs; while not giving up your Signature Hat. It's good to have a portfolio of other services. You'll discover that you have a multi-disciplinary capability, and earn from such discovery!

12. **Law of the Aikido**—Don't make your competitors or detractors a factor for your success or failure. Make competition irrelevant. Don't waste your time and energy defending or plotting against competition. Practice "surpetition," i.e., surpass competition.

13. **Law of the Lean and Mean**—Expand your firm not by the size of your manpower, but by the size of your bank account. Some firms are afflicted by the "edifice complex" or fixated by building empires with huge hard-to-meet payrolls.

14. **Law of "Relativity"**—If you decide to recruit relatives into your core staff, your rules must be absolutely uniform, not relative. It's demoralizing to have relatives who flaunt privilege, not responsibility.

15. **Law of Word-of-Mouth**—When you do a good job, your client is your ambassador of goodwill spreading the good news - you. The best salesman is a satisfied client. The best endorsement is a successful campaign.

16. **Law of Prestige Pricing**—Only when you have already established a certain prestige can you begin using "prestige pricing." Your reputation gives your PR firm added value. Clients are willing to pay a little more for "reputable" firms which deliver on their promises.

17. **Law of the Self-Portrait**—When you paint a good picture of your media contacts, you are making a self-portrait; it is also true the other way around. Speak well of your contacts. To the client, that speaks well of you.

18. **Law of the Fountain**—If you are the fount of news and insights, you attract those who want news and insights - even from friends in media.

Said another way, if you are a fount of fund, you attract those who need it, whether you want them or not.

19. **Law of Succession**—Good PR practice, to remain of value to society, should have a lifespan longer than its founder's lifetime. A succession system, after success, must be installed to keep the organization going through generations.

20. **Law of Job Security**—Running your own practice confers more job security than being employed in these times of corporate wrongdoings and uncertainty. You only have yourself to blame if you lose your job due to poor professional practice management. In employment, others do wrong—and then you are out of job.

21. **Law of First Fruits**—He who buys a brand new car or condo unit with the first fruits of success is expected to work doubly hard—to afford the monthly installment and a new lifestyle. I[illegible] wrong to live beyond your means, but it's motivating to live within your future means.

22. **Law of Invincible Summer**—Through every winter of doubt and want, believe that you have within you an "invincible summer." This quote from a French author must be a handy companion of would-be PR practitioners who must be prepared to have many lunches or walks in the park alone, to craft a proposal and budget a few hours before deadline—having no "boss" to push you.

Then, you re-discover the "Chairman Emeritus above"—and so fortify your faith that you have a worthy calling.

(The author is head of Creative Point International, Philippine affiliate of Hill and Knowlton. He is also senior lecturer at the graduate school of the UP College of Mass Communication. The "laws" are based on his talk at the recently concluded 11th National Public Relations Congress held at Edsa Plaza on "Making It as a PR Entrepreneur." He took issue with describing the work as "entrepreneurship," called it "professional practice." And then he introduced "22 Laws" culled from insights from experience and inquiry.)

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Nescafé competition to 'stir a little wit'

NESCAFE, the only name responsible for the world's best cup of Joe, is once again at its highest steam as it launches the competition that is bound to boil a little controversy, stir a little wit, and challenge a whole power-dose of creativity.

With its loud and out AdLib-Ad Mo Libre Ko competition, Nescafe is on the prowl for our college's best burst of talents, this time not for the math whizzes or the spelling bees, but for three twisted, tactful, and totally out-there think-tanks who have enough blend of neurons and creative juices to put the thought "Ang Kapeng Hindi Kape"-hot and new Nescafe Mocha Java Nescafe Caramel Mocha's steamy tagline-in the still frames.

Judging from its cheeky, challenging, and contentious posters and flyers, Nescafe is searching not for the over-the-counter café brand of visuals but for the brashest, boldest and brightest homegrown coffee print ad-the only descriptions fit to stand with the reputation of Nescafe as the best blend in the planet. The full-colored 7 columns x 40 cm format entries should be daring enough to generate stiff necks in the streets, whip up conversations in this year's Ad Congress and grab attention in the local dailies, as Nescafe Mocha Java and Nescafe Caramel Mocha's super-steamy posters.

And just because three heads are much better than two, the entries are open to the teamwork of three talented college students (must be enrolled in his or her present semester). The competition commandments and criteria are posted in Nescafe AdLib's official webpage www.nescafe.com/adlib and in the cleverly dual-purpose leaflet or entry form, so it's smart to do prior research before sending your entries to Publicis-Dialog, 10th floor IBM Plaza Building, 8 Eastwood Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City.

And it's a must to include an empty sachet of Nescafe Caramel Mocha and another empty sachet of Nescafe Mocha Java, as proof that you spent countless sleepless nights and coffee cups to create your masterwork.

All entries pass through a series of critical-thinking, oftentimes merciless advertisers as judges, so the top three teams who make it through the rigorous executors will reap their due rewards. The top three groups will be given stellar seats to this year's Advertising Congress in Baguio, where a luxurious hotel accommodation, pocket money of P2,000 each, and more than enough Nescafe Mocha Java and Nescafe Caramel Mocha they could drink await them.

That's just for starters. Nescafe Caramel Mocha and Nescafe Mocha Java are adding a prize money of P100,000 into the mix for the top trio.

Of savory cups and one steamy competition, Nescafe sure knows how to serve the best coffee in the hottest, boldest, and freshest way possible. And now that they're here to change coffee drinking history, all we have to do is take the first sip.

Text and win millions with Petron

TEXT your way and win millions of cash prizes in the first-ever electronic raffle draw from Petron Corp, the country's leading petroleum company. Called Tank Up N Text, consumers now have a chance to convert purchases of gasoline, LPG and other petroleum products into raffle entries vie text messaging starting Aug. 23 to Nov. 20.

The biggest windfall of cash prizes will be given to lucky winners. For the grand draw, three winners will be awarded P1 million each, while three other winners will receive P500,000 each, tax-free. Five winners will be selected every month and will receive P100,000 each. Every week, 25 winners shall be given P10,000 each. The excitement builds up as one winner will be selected everyday to win P5,000 worth of Petron Gift Certificates. Customers only need to keep their receipts and text their receipt numbers to Smart or Globe.

The Tank Up N' Text promo is open to all Petron customers who are subscribers of Smart, Talk N' Text, Globe and Touch Mobile. Every single P300 purchase of any Petron product such as Blaze, XCS Plus, XCS, Diesel Max, Ultron, Rev-X and Petron LPG Gasul entitles the customer to one raffle entry. Single receipt purchases worth P300 at the Petron Treats convenience store are also included in the raffle draw.

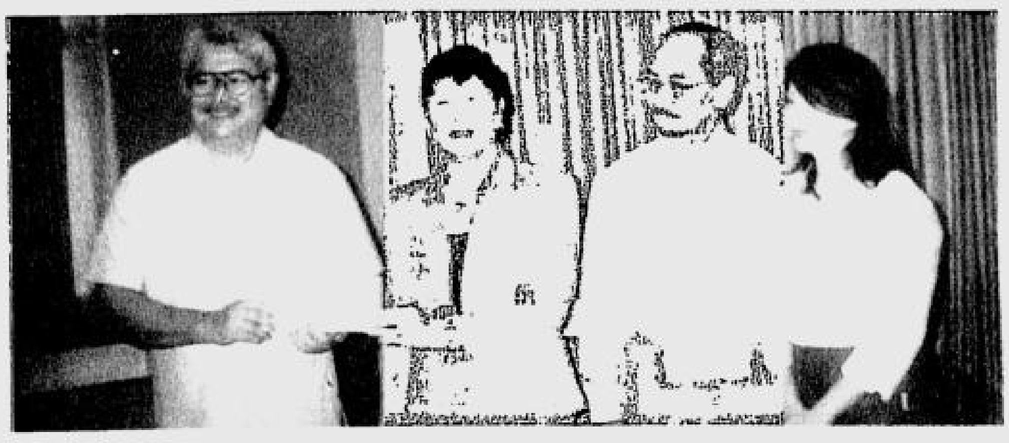
Charmaine V. Canillas, advertising and promotions manager of Petron, explains how to join. "To qualify, just make a one-time registration through your cellphone by keying in your entry in this format: Petron <space> receipt number/amount purchased/full name/address. Then send text message to 2600 for Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers or 2363 for Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers."

After the one-time registration via text messaging, the customer will receive three confirmation replies. Once the confirmation reply has been received, the raffle entry is stored in Petron's raffle data bank. "Each entry can only be sent once. Customers are reminded to keep their receipts as winners will be required to present them to claim the valuable prizes," she said.

Non-winning entries in earlier raffle draws are automatically included in the grand raffle draw. The grand raffle draw shall be held on Nov. 24.

LTPF, CILA LAUNCH BAYANIHAN COUNTER DISASTER MOVEMENT

Luen Thai Philippines Foundation (LTPF) and Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila) have recently signed a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of Bayanihan, a movement focused on providing disaster preparedness, relief programs and assistance to its neighboring communities in Pampanga and Tarlac. Bayanihan was launched at Luen Thai's facility in Clark Field, Pampanga. Shown is LTPF chair Willie Tan (1st row, 2nd from left) shaking hands with Cila chair George Sorio. Witnessing the event are CDC VP for business development Genaro Pantig (1st row left), Cila president Carmen McTavish (1st row right) and representatives from Luen Thai Philippines and Cila. For more information about Luen Thai, visit www.luenthai.com.



SAN BEDA COLLEGE RECEIVES AYALA FOUNDATION GRANT

San Beda College finance director Dom Clement Ma. H. Roque OSB receives a check for $14,500 from Ayala Foundation USA president Victoria P. Garchitorena and US-based alumnus and donor Victor Zamora and his wife Connie. The San Beda College will use the fund for a scholarship program and the improvement of school athletes' quarters. Ayala Foundation USA offers ways for Filipinos based in the United States to support social development projects in the Philippines.

CORPORATE UNIFORMS EXHIBIT

DOLE Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas poses with Unimoda president Olive Ang during the textile and garment exhibit held recently at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The fair was a showcase of corporate uniforms made of locally manufactured materials as an offshoot of the campaign initiated by Sen. Ernesto Herrera and Job Corps in response to Presidential Memorandum Circular No. 20 directing all national and local government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, government financial institutions and other government instrumentalities, including schools and police units, to use locally produced materials for their uniforms. The campaign is aimed at revitalizing the garment and textile industry, which for many years was one of the most dynamic industries in the Philippines. Also shown are Unimoda's Delia Litonjua and director Teresita Mansala of the Department of Labor and Employment.

DIPLOMATIC PARTIES FOR NORMA BAJA

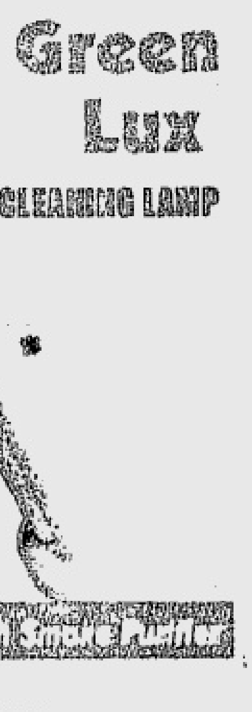
Thailand Ambassador Busba Bunnag recently hosted a despedida luncheon party at the Thai Embassy in Forbes Park, Makati in honor of Madame Norma C. Baja prior to her departure for New York to join husband DFA Senior Undersecretary Lauro Baja, newly appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as permanent representative to the United Nations. International embassies in Manila, DFA and other government offices, diplomatic organizations and NGOs also hosted a series of parties for the popular couple. Shown, from left, are Carmen Garrido, Susan Ople, Norma C. Baja, Ambassador Busba Bunnag and Lovely Romulo. At the back row are Tita Mendoza, president, Philippine Ambassador Ladies Association (Pala), Charito Melchor, Encarnita Martinez, Mila Valderrama, Corazon Ortega Espiritu, Gloria Domingo and Sylvia Farolan.

WHAT'S NEWS WINNER

With her brand new Sony Ericsson T100 is Heidilyin Sulit (right), Inquirer's What's News Txt Game daily draw winner for Aug. 25. Giving her the prized phone is Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (left). Sulit is one of 60 lucky people, among more than 20,000 texters, drawn in the daily raffle. All participating texters are eligible to win the grand prize, a techie package composed of a Fujitsu Life Book computer, Palm Zire 71, Pioneer DVD mini component, Sony television set and digital camera, and a Sony Ericsson T310 phone.

ProductFiles

Lighting innovation from Akari

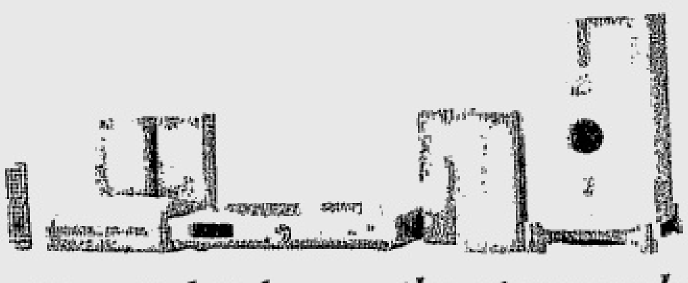


FROM the same company that introduced the Philippines to an automatic photo sensor lamp, now comes another innovative lighting product that combines an energy saving lamp and an air purifier and smoke eliminator in one.

The Akari Greenlux Lamp is made from high technology and skillful design. The first of its kind in the world contains Anion that is proven to promote natural health and comfortable breathing, removes cigarette smoke and reduces odor in the environment, maintaining good health and slows down aging.

Greenlux transforms anion to ion wind and uses the effect of light between heat energy as the light spreads all over the place, in the process combining all the advantage of an energy saving lamp and air depurator in one.

Greenlux can be used in any ordinary E27 lamp holder without any additional special device. This lamp can be widely used at home, in the office, hotels, coffee shops, restaurants, hospitals, department stores, and other public places where clean air is required. Greenlux Lamp is available at True Value, Kuryente DIY Shop, Wilcon Builders and Citi Hardware (Visayas and Mindanao) and MC Home Builders outlets.



New 1-bit home theater model

SHARP (Philippines) Corp recently announced that its high-fidelity 1-bit digital home theater system is now available nationwide.

The term "1-bit", according to Sharp, refers to an ultra-high sampling speed of 2.8224 megahertz (MHz), whereas most digital recording formats rely on Pulse Code Modulation (PCN) that extracts an analogue signal for playback by passing through several processes. Other digital players produce one sound for every 16 bits, while Sharp's system produces one sound per bit. In plain English: more faithful recording, storage and transmission of original sound information.

The SD-AT1000W 6-speaker system (including a subwoofer) comes with a digital amplifier, AV remote control and Dolby Digital, DTS and Dolby Pro Logic II Decoders. An energy-saving feature (with 0.8W or less power consumption in stand-by mode) and a 2-band (FM/AM) synthesizer tuner with 40-station random pre-set memory are built-in. Consumers can just plug in their DVD or VCD/CD player into the corresponding ports and instantly enjoy their home theater.

"For decades now, we have been at the forefront of providing technologically advanced products designed to make lives easier, more convenient and pleasurable," says Koji Domoto, assistant vice-president for domestic sales of Sharp, about the new home theater system. "The fusion of technology and heart, coupled with a caring spirit, creativity, dedication and a strong commitment to our dealers and customers have helped us maintain our leadership in the industry." Sharp is the country's market leader in terms of color television sales, washing machines and karaokes.

Clips

Pond's Party of 5

GET ready to party with Pond's as it brings you five parties in one at the Pond's Party of 5 on Oct. 10, 7 p.m. at Greenbelt 2 in Makati. Five of the most happening places in town-Uva, Temple, Masas, Cena and the Greenbelt 2 patio-become five times hotter as the hippest and coolest people get together for the ultimate in fun and entertainment. Pond's kicks off its latest campaign with a fashion show and rave party, the fashion show to be hosted by Amanda Griffin and Power 4's Frank Garcia. The first batch of the Pond's Beauty Powder Changeover Beauties will be unveiled. The fun continues as back-to-back DJs Robby Mananquil and Martin Pulgar play party music in the patio. Hourglass Acoustics will also be performing at the patio before the rave party.

Public speaking workshop

PORTER and Miles Inc, a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, announces a workshop on Public Speaking slated on Thursday, Oct. 16, 1 to 6 p.m. at Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City (near Vito Cruz). The seminar will have as its resource lecturer Obelia Lacanilao-Cutiongco. The seminar is especially designed for businessmen, managers, trainers and salespeople who need to deliver a powerhouse talk/presentation to attract more business. Call Mercy at 638-7719/20 for more information.

'Paco Park Presents' best of October

"PACO Park Presents" offers the best of performances this month. An evening with American flutist David Johnson and the Philippines' Sonny Yangco await the public on Oct. 10. Woodwind music sets the almost Christmas mood with the "5 ½ Woodwind Ensemble" from the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music on Oct. 17. On Oct. 24, the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Chorale Society shares its own brand and style of singing together with the Himig ng Maynila. Fresh from the Conservatorio di Musica "Santa Cecilia" in Rome, Italy, pianist Jourdann Petalver plays music from home in the program "Homecoming" on Oct. 31. "Paco Park Presents" is aired nationwide over NBN Channel 4 every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Admission to "Paco Park Presents" is free. The public is invited.

Japan exports up

TOKYO—The surplus in Japan's current account, the broadest measure of trade in goods and services, widened in August as exports were firm and fewer Japanese travelled abroad.

The current account surplus rose 33.6 percent from the same month a year earlier to 1.4428 trillion yen ($13.17 billion), the Finance Ministry said on Thursday.

Economists in a Reuters poll had forecast a roughly 24 percent increase to a median 1.3400 trillion yen.

The trade surplus rose 20.3 percent to 954.1 billion yen, with exports up 6.7 percent at 4.1021 trillion yen and imports up 3.2 percent at 3.1480 trillion yen.

A pickup in exports, improving corporate profits and rising share prices have boosted hopes that Japan is pulling out of a 10-year economic slump.

The current account surplus was also boosted as the services deficit continued to shrink as the number of Japanese travelling abroad had yet to return to last year's levels, after declining earlier due to Asia's SARS virus outbreak and Iraq war concerns.

Bank of Japan policymakers are expected to discuss the impact of the yen's surge on the economy as they kick off a two-day policy-setting meeting later on Thursday. However, most analysts do not expect the central bank to further ease its ultra-loose stance at this time.

Reuters

US CEOs see economy, business gaining steam; not yet for jobs

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va.— Most US corporate chieftains see the economy and their businesses on a strong footing next year though they forecast a slow improvement in the employment picture, according to a survey released on Wednesday.

More than half of the chief executive officers quizzed by the Business Council, 55 percent, thought the economy would grow more than 3 percent next year with another 40 percent expecting expansion of 1.6 percent to 3 percent.

Executives also offered an upbeat outlook for their own businesses, with about two-thirds of those surveyed predicting their profit margins would grow in 2004 but their ability to raise prices would still be limited.

"Overall I'd say there is an expectation of a good but not super economy coming in this last quarter and in 2004 with expectations that productivity will continue and that will be a significant driver of profits for these companies," said Fannie Mae CEO Franklin Raines who directed the survey.

The US economy has been picking up steam in recent months, growing at a 3.3 percent annual rate in the second quarter. Private economists have predicted that the economy may expand as much as 3.9 percent next year.

But unemployment levels have remained stagnant at 6.1 percent even with 57,000 new non-farm jobs created last month.

About 2.6 million jobs have been lost since 2001 and the CEOs did not have particularly good news for those out of work.

They forecast the unemployment rate would hover around 5.8 percent to 6.1 percent at the end of 2003 and fall to 5.1 percent to 5.8 percent next year.

And more than half of CEOs expect that the Fed will raise short-term interest rates next year but only modestly, according to the survey.

The US Federal Reserve has kept short-term interest rates at 45-year lows in hopes that the economy will surge ahead and policymakers have indicated they have no intention of raising rates any time soon.

Executives ranging from General Electric Co. to Sara Lee Corp. were convening at the posh Greenbrier golf and spa resort in the Allegheny mountains of West Virginia to chew over the latest U.S. outlook, corporate governance and other issues confronting their companies.

The Business Council, made up of about 125 CEOs from a variety of businesses, was established during the Great Depression to advise the government on the economy and social issues.

While spending on such items as research and development has increased substantially in recent quarters, US businesses are still taking a tepid approach to spending on inventory or work force expansion. *Reuters*

Southeast Asian stocks surge

SINGAPORE—The dollar skidded to a three-year low against the yen on Thursday as the market bet authorities would let the US currency weaken, sending a shudder through the Tokyo stock market on worries for exporters' shares.

But an index of other Asian stock markets set fresh three-year highs on the back of credit ratings upgrades for three Southeast Asian nations. Oil slipped as producer Nigeria avoided a nationwide strike, while gold gained on the weaker dollar.

The dollar's descent also took it to a three-and-a-half-month low against the euro and a six-year trough against the Australian dollar.

Traders said they saw no end to the decline amid a growing view that US and European authorities would let the dollar weaken to reduce a ballooning US current account deficit.

The strength of the yen and its threat to exporters' profits overshadowed the Tokyo stock market, although its losses were limited compared with Wednesday's declines as retail and other domestic-oriented shares drew buying.

The Nikkei average fell 0.1 percent to 10,531.44.

"The market has started to discount chances that the yen could rise as high as 105 yen," said Zenshiro Mizuno, senior managing director at Marusan Securities Co Ltd.

Stronger gains elsewhere in Asia lifted MSCI's broadest dollar-based index of the region ex-Japan by 1.1 percent to levels last seen in September 2000.

Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia were among the best performing markets for a second day after the three countries received sovereign credit rating upgrades from Standard & Poor's on Wednesday.

Malaysia was up two percent at a 17-month peak at midday, led by banking shares. Commerce Asset added 5.7 percent while AMMB rose 4.7 percent. Thailand and Indonesia rose 1.4 percent.

South Korean stocks were also strong, advancing 1.9 percent as foreign investors drove Kookmin Bank up 4.9 percent.

Taiwan rose 0.8 percent, Hong Kong added 0.6 percent by midday and Singapore was flat. Australia gained a quarter of a percent.

US light crude oil fell 0.4 percent to $29.68 a barrel after labor unions in Nigeria, the seventh-largest oil producer, called off a nationwide strike planned for Thursday.

Gold firmed to $376.25 an ounce from $374.85 as the weaker dollar made the metal cheaper in other currencies. *Reuters*

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4	318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	7,000 kms	1,700,000
5	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	9,000 kms	1,780,000
6	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	8,000 kms	1,780,000
7	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	5,000 kms	1,800,000
8	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	4,000 kms	1,800,000
9	318i Sport	2003	Titanium Silver	6,000 kms	2,250,000
10	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	10,000 kms	2,550,000
11	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	4,000 kms	2,650,000
12	525i	2002	Titanium Silver	17,000 kms	2,750,000
13	525i	2002	Black Sapphire	13,000 kms	2,850,000
14	520i	2003	Titanium Silver	2,000 kms	2,800,000
15	Z4	2003	Black Sapphire	4,000 kms	3,100,000
16	525i	2003	Toledo Blue	7,000 kms	3,300,000

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3	320i	1998	Arktis Silver	66,000 kms	890,000

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Notice is hereby given that the Contract To Sell in favor of LUTHER C. TEOPE executed on March 1, 1994 is being cancelled for non-payment of monthly amortization since July 1997. Buyer is advised to proceed to the office of the corporation to received the amount refundable to him under the Maceda Law within sixty days upon the date of this publication.
(PDI - Oct. 10, 2003)

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AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan All unredeemed pledges of April 2003 will be auctioned on October 21, 8:30 am
Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.
(PDI-October 10, 2003)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELPIDIA A. ARCETA has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc No. 225; Page No 45; Book No XII; Series of 2001 of Notary Public for Quezon City Benjamin Mogpo Jr.
PDI-October 2, 10 & 16.2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MARIO VILLACORTA who died on July 6, 2002 at Makati City has been extrajudicially settled on September 24, 2003 at Makati City before Christopher Edward R. Avelino, a Notary Public for and in Makati City per Doc. No. 296, Page 60, Book No. 1, Series of 2003
(PDI-Sept.26,Oct.3&10,2003)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Due to the failure of the previous bidding on the following items, the Davao City Water District (DCWD) hereby invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery for the following Pump and Motors:

Item Package	Description	Ceiling of Bid Price
1	1-unit 125Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 2	P 1,370,000.00
2	1-unit 125Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 3	1,310,000.00
3	1-unit 125Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 4	1,435,000.00
4	1-unit 125Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 6	1,165,000.00
5	1-unit 125Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 14	905,000.00
6	1-unit 125Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 19	985,000.00
7	1-unit 100Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 20	1,000,000.00
8	1-unit 75Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 29	900,000.00
9	1-unit 125Hp Vertical Turbine Pump and Motor for Production Well No. 30	1,050,000.00
	Total –	P 10,120,000.00

Eligibility requirements per item package are available at the Purchasing Division Office starting **October 10, 2003** during its business hours. Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements will be on or before **October 24, 2003.**

Bid documents may be released only to applicants with a Notice of Eligibility, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P300.00 per package starting **October 31, 2003.**

Pre-bidding is set on **November 14, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. and the Opening of Bids on **November 21, 2003** at 3:00 p.m. at the DCWD Conference Room.

DCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/informality of the bids and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the District.

(Sgd.) ALFONSO E. LAID
AGM for Administration
Chairman, Bids & Canvass Committee

(PDI – October 10 & 17, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : September 27, 2003
Loan No. : PH-P200
IFB No. SEDIP-2003-EOPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.**
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery School Equipment following schedule below:

Equipment Package	Number of Lots	Number of Items	Issuance of Bid Documents	Date of Bid Opening
A. Science Equipment	3	60	October 3, 2003	Nov. 12, 2003
B. Math and Physics Equipment	2	48	October 3, 2003	Nov. 14, 2003
C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipment	2	48	October 3, 2003	Nov. 14, 2003

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or more lots
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents from the Office of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), 112-A Mabini Bldg., Dep-Ed Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City Tel. No.: (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 loc. 2019 or visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the DBM Procurement Service at http://www.procurementservice.org.
6. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on dates stated in paragraph 2 upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the above and payment to the DepEd Cashier of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) per set of bid documents. A set is comprised of Volume 1-Bidding Documents and Volume 2-Technical Specifications
7. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of not less than two (2%) of the total bid amount must be delivered to the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City not later than 10.00 a.m of the dates indicated in paragraph 2 at which time, date and place, said bids will be opened for reading in public
8. Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held at the address indicated in paragraph 7 on the following dates.

Equipment Package	Date of Pre-Bid Conference	Time
A. Science Equipment	October 20, 2003	10:00 am
B. Math and Physics Equipment	October 20, 2003	10:00 am
C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipment	October 20, 2003	10:00 am

9. The DepEd reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the package/s to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chairman,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Oct. 3 & 10, 2003)

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PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

October 2, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCREDITATION OF SUPPLIERS

The **Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)**, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture and an ISO 9001:2000 accredited institution, is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility for accreditation.

The issuance of the requirements for prequalification for accreditation will be on **October 15 to 30, 2003.** Accredited suppliers will be informed in writing not later than **November 29, 2003.**

For further information, please call **Eduardo P. Dalusong** at telephone numbers **(044) 4560-731 to 34** or **Mr. Rogel M. dela Cuesta** at telephone numbers **(02) 921-3863.**

All particulars relative to the Eligibility for Accreditation shall be governed by Article XVI of Republic Act No. 9184 and Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001 and its implementing regulations.

(Sgd.) LIBERTADO C. CRUZ
Executive Director

(PDI - Oct 10 & 11, 2003)

P1-M jackpot in Heart to Heart Benefit Bingo

OVER P3 million in prizes are at stake in Bingo Bonanza's Heart to Heart Benefit Bingo, at the World Trade Center on Sunday, Oct. 12. Major prizes include the jackpot of P1 million, three brand new cars, and other cash giveaways.

Heart to Heart Benefit Bingo is organized by Bingo Bonanza Corp, the country's biggest bingo parlor chain. The bingo social aims to raise funds for the charitable projects of the Philippine Heart Association and the Ateneo de Manila High School Class '78 Foundation Inc.

Tickets are priced at P1,000, good for 10 regular games. Tickets are available at all Metro Manila Bingo Bonanza parlors. For more information, call 637-5250 or 637-5292 local 128 or 108. Bingo enthusiasts can also call JJL Marketing at 247-6629 or 243-9695, or the Ateneo de Manila High School Class '78 Foundation Inc at 0918-9277861.

NOTICE

The public is hereby informed that **EMELYN Q. GARCIANO**, whose picture appears above, was terminated for cause **from YJC Beauty & Slim Center** effective 23 August 2003. Any transaction entered into by the said employee is considered fraudulent and shall not be honored by YJC.

(PDI–Oct. 10, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that Rolando A. Uy has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **ARMANDO** to **ROLANDO** in the birth certificate of **ARMANDO ADLAO UY** who was born on **July 5, 1954** at **Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental** and whose parents are **Joaquin Uy** and **Margarita Adlao.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than October 20 2003.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI–Oct. 10 & 17, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
MANILA BRANCH 10

IN RE: PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF ENTRIES IN THE CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH OF JUDE ALDWIN DELA CRUZ CANTILLER OF THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF THE CITY OF MANILA

SP. PROC. NO. 02-105103

SPS. JOSEPH G. CANTILLER &
MAIDEN DELA CRUZ-CANTILLER,
Petitioners
x

ORDER

Through a verified petition, petitioners SPS. JOSEPH G. CANTILLER AND MAIDEN DELA CRUZ-CANTILLER seeks to correct the following entries in the certificate of Live Birth of their son Judge Aldwin Dela Cruz Cantiller in the following manner, to wit:

		FROM	TO
1.	date and place of marriage of parents	July 20, 1989 Manila	January 10, 1995 San Juan, Metro Manila

2. and to declare Jude Aldwin Dela Cruz Cantiller as legitimate child.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, let the petition be set for hearing on October 28, 2003 at 8:30 in the morning before the sala of the Assisting Judge of this Court at Room 503, 5th Floor, Manila City Hall. All interested parties are hereby notified of said hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published, at the expense of the petitioner, once a week for three consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Manila, to be selected by a raffle pursuant to P.D. No. 1079

Let copies of the petition together with the annexes and copy of this Order be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General and the Civil Registrar of the City of Manila.

SO ORDERED

Manila, Philippines, September 24, 2003.

(Sgd.) ROSARIO C. CRUZ
Assisting Judge

(PDI–Oct. 10, 17 & 24, 2003)

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dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR
DEFINITIVE GENERAL SAFEGUARD MEASURES
AGAINST THE IMPORTATION OF
CERAMIC FLOOR AND WALL TILES
FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES
SAFEGUARD CASE NO. 01-2001
x---x

ERRATUM

This refers to the typographical error on the tariff headings stated in the Department of Trade and Industry's Order of 05 September 2003 amending the list of developing countries exempted from the imposition of definitive safeguard duty against Ceramic Floor and Wall tiles.

The tariff headings stated in the Order should read as **6907.9000 and 6908.9000** instead of 6907.9000 and 6906.9000.

For information of all parties concerned.

07 October 2003.

LUIS M. CATIBAYAN
Director

(PDI–Oct. 10, 2003)

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM – PHASE 2

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 2 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 2). ADP Phase 2 involves the development and privatization of the following BCDA properties.

1. Approximately 66,820-square meter SRDP Proper located at the former Self-Reliance and Development Program (SRDP) Complex, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila;
2. Approximately four (4) hectares North Bonifacio Lots located in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, near the Manila Japanese School, British School and International School Manila, and
3. Approximately five (5) hectares of Camp Bago Bantay located at Barangay Sto. Cristo, Bago-Bantay, Quezon City between SM City Annex and Mindanao Avenue.

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) that outlines, among others, the requirements for proponents interested to participate in the privatization/development. Interested proponents can address their letters to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP COMMITTEE 2
BCDA Corporate Center
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Air Base, Pasay City

The TOR for the abovementioned property shall be ready for distribution to interested proponents by 15 October 2003 at the BCDA offices at a non-refundable cost of Php10,000.00, for each TOR, payable to BCDA in cash or manager's check.

A pre-qualification conference among interested proponents is set for 2:00 pm on 29 October 2003. The objective of the pre-qualification conference is to discuss the property, the TOR and other issues that may be raised by the proponents.

Interested proponents may direct their inquiries to Aileen Zosa and/or Bambie Andal at telephone numbers 551-3006 to 11 local 124 or 110.

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President and Chief Executive Officer

(PDI – October 10, 15 & 22, 2003)

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Our Dearly Beloved

Jaime A. San Juan

October 16, 1951 – October 11, 1991

On his 13th Feastday, we treasure all the beautiful memories as a wonderful husband to **Luz Uy San Juan** and as an excellent father to **Jamaica SJ Esparas** and son-in-law **Major Ruel M. Esparas, Jussier Uy San Juan** and daughter-in-law **Vanessa San Juan**. His grandchildren **Jaime Luz, Jameson, Jaime Florentino & Jamie Luz** San Juan.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul to the following churches.

Incarnation Catholic Church, 1001 N. Brand Boulevard, Glendale, CA 91202	5:00 PM
Holy Catholic Church, 209 E. Lomita Glendale, CA 91205	5:00 PM
Holy Family Cathedral, 800 West 5th Avenue Anchorage Alaska, USA	12 Noon
St. Elizabeth Anne Seton Catholic Church, 2901 East Hoffman Road Anchorage Alaska, USA	11:30 AM
St. Benedict Catholic Church, 8110 Jewel Lake Anchorage Alaska, USA	11:00 AM
St. Patrick Catholic Church, 211 Muldon Road, Anchorage Alaska, USA	8:30 AM
Santuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	6:15 AM
Our Lady of Edsa, Edsa cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City	6:00 AM
St. John Bosco Parish, Arnaiz Street, Makati, MM	6:30 AM
St. Judge Archdiocesan Shrine, 1420 Dr. J.P. Laurel Sr. St., San Miguel, Manila	6:30 AM
Church of St. John the Evangelist, Tanauan City, Batangas	6:15 AM
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 4234 Sto. Tomas, Batangas	6:00 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag, Manaoag, Pangasinan 2430	9:00 AM
Grotto Shrine Foundation, Inc., 670 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	7:00 AM
Immaculate Conception Parish, Antipolo Cathedral, P. Oliveros St., Antipolo City	6:00 AM
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, 910 Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, 1001 Manila	5:00 AM
Basilica del Sto. Niño, Osmeña Boulevard, Sto. Niño, Cebu City	6:00 AM
Parish of St. James the Great, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City	6:20 AM
St. Martin of Tours Parish, Basilica of Taal, Taal, Batangas	5:30 AM

GAUDIOSA "NENE" LUNA SEBOLLENA

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 8, 2003 at the age of 86.

Her bereaved children and spouse **Rene & Connie, Bebot , Glenda & Dionie, Nennette & Rudy, Chito** (†), **Boyet & Janet, JenJen & Daisy**, sister-in-law **Cristina** and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Brgy. Sico II, San Juan, Batangas.

Interment will be on October 11, 2003 at Liwasang Alaala Memorial Park, San Juan, Batangas after the 9:00 a.m Mass.

Angelita Chico Rebullida

*Beloved wife of **Carlos Xerez-Burgos Rebullida** (†) passed on peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 7, 2003 at the age of 76.*

Her loving children **Itos** and **Eunice**, **Monching** and **Blessie**, **Marimil** and **Jun Reyes**, **Lele** and **Walter Spakowski**, **Joey** and **Lot**; grandchildren **Carl**, **Andrew**, and **James, Paolo, Nicolo**, and **Maritina**, **Robbie**, **Betina**, **Bea**, and **Therese**; other relatives, in-laws and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains will be at the Capilla de San Francisco, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati.

Interment will be held at 3:00 p.m. October 11, 2003, Saturday, at the Garden of Serenity, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Our Dearly Beloved

JOMAR SAPON BAGASAO

has peacefully joined his Creator on October 8, 2003 at the age of 17.

St. Mary's Elementary School,
Phil. Science High School Cagayan Valley Campus,
U.P.Diliman

His loving father Former Mayor John Severino of Bayombong; mother Lyla; sister Nova; brothers Jomax & Jover; grandparents Mariano (†) & Juanita Bagasao, Francisco (†) & Marciana (†) Sapon; uncles, aunties, cousins and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at Bonfal West, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Interment will be at Bayombong Cemetery on October 12, 2003 after the 3:00 pm Mass at St. Dominic Cathedral, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Atty. Mamerto J. Singson, Sr.

of Luna La Union and Quezon City

Peacefully joined his Creator last October 7, 2003 at the age of 84

His loving wife Carmen; his children Mamerto (†) & Corito, Danny & Malou Victoria (Becca) & Dr. Jun Everett, Marites (Jing-Jing) & Michael Nieveras; brothers & sisters Antonio (†) & Mary Pulmano (†), Soledad (†) & Mariano Manzano (†) Emelda (†) & Sulpicio Cabuding (†), Carmen (†) & Pedro Josue (†), Marcelina & Efren Florendo (†), Angeles & Honorio Todiño; nephews, nieces, grandchildren, other relatives & friends request your prayers for the eternal rest of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel C of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City

Cremation will be on Sunday, October 12, 2003 at the Loyola Crematorium Guadalupe at 1:00 a.m.

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Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
YELISA G. SARMIENTO	Oct. 10, 2003	4.00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	Chapel A Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal

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Nov. 28

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2 HOW TO DEAL
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7 THE MEDALLION
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
10 TREK

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1 HOW TO DEAL
2 INNER SENSES
3 UNDERWORLD
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
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9 TREK
10 OILYA

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1 THE MEDALLION
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 FIRST TIME
4 UNDERWORLD
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 TREK
10 KISKISAN
11 FINDING NEMO
12 PILYA

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1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 NEW BLOOD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

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9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 FREDDY VS. JASON
12 PILYA

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1 finding nemo
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 PILYA
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO
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1 KALABIT
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 THE MEDALLION
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 PEOPLE I KNOW
7 RESERVED
8 VISIBLE SECRET

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1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 UNDERWORLD
5 FINDING NEMO
6 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
7 PILYA
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9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 THE MEDALLION
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Nov. 21

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1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
11:05 FS/11:35 MF/1:40/3:45/5:50/7:55/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:35 END

2 UNDERWORLD
10:00 FS/10:10 FS/12:30/2:50/5:10/7:30/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/12:00 END

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2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 GIGLI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 HOW TO DEAL 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
5 UNDERWORLD 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:20, 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
7 AMERICAN PSYCHO 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 7:00, 9:00
8 FINDING NEMO
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
10 THE TREK 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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3 TREK - 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:20, 12:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

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2 AMERICAN PIE :THE WEDDING
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 THE TREK
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 FINDING NEMO

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1 UNDERWORLD
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
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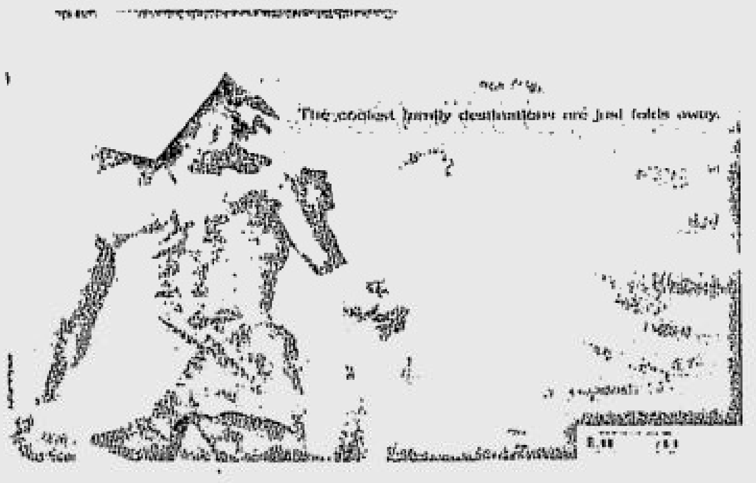
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HOW TO DEAL PG13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	FINDING NEMO GP 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20

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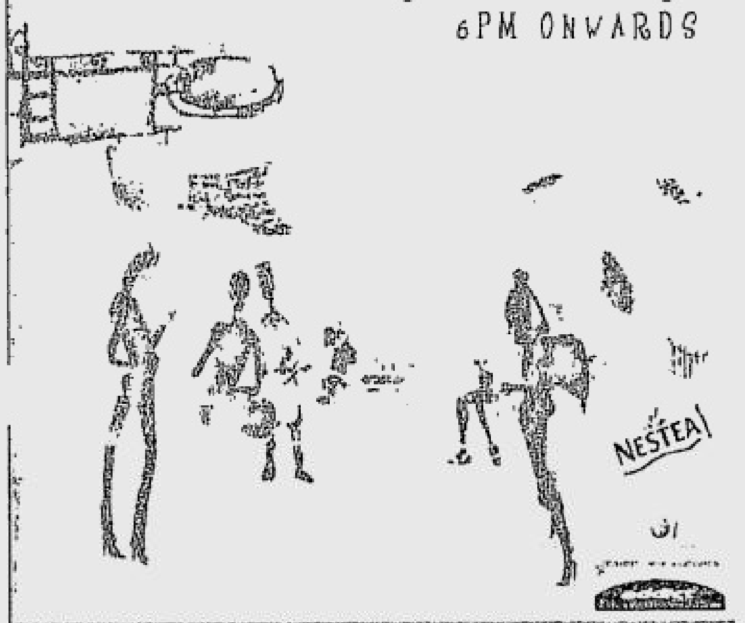

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R18

CINEMA 2
AMERICAN PIE "THE WEDDING"
12:05, 2:15, 4:25, 6:35, 9:00
R18

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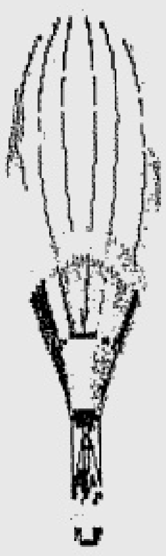

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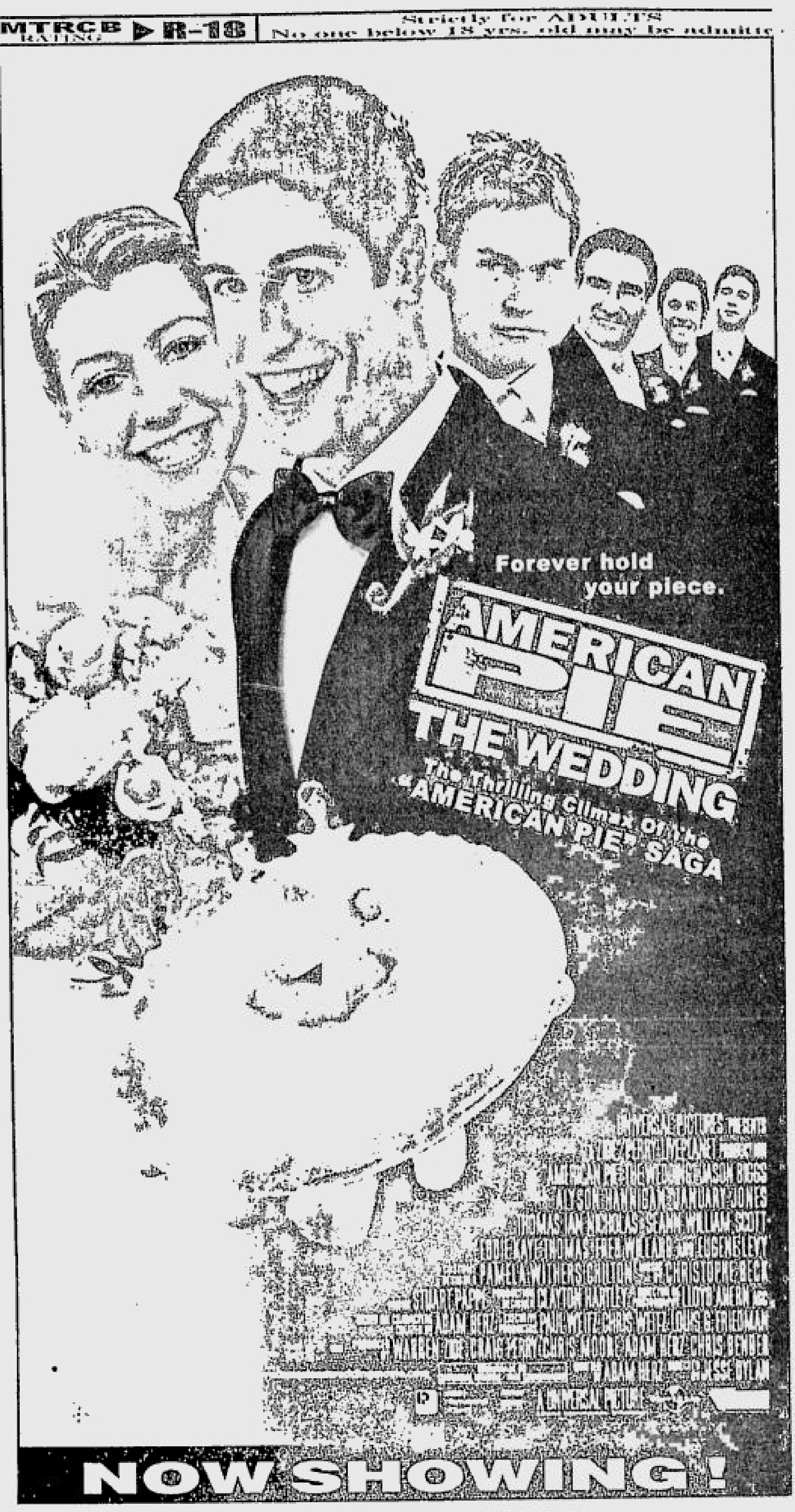
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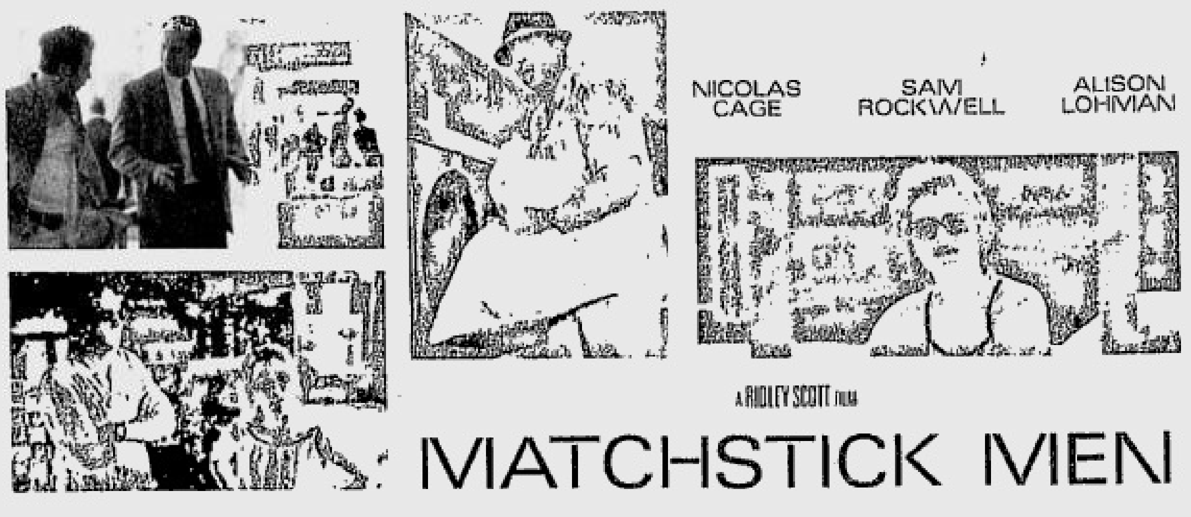

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3 BASIC
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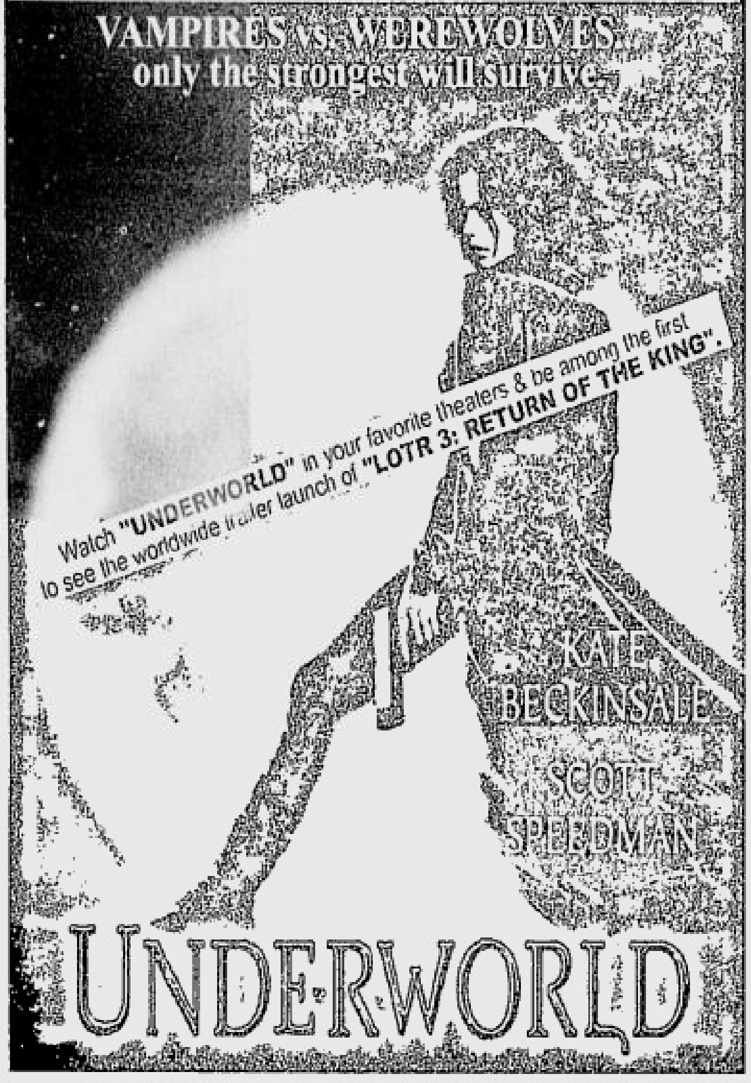

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Ali 4	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
Ali 5	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
Ali 6	HOW TO DEAL
Ali 7	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SI
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATA
CORONET A	PILYA
CORONET B	A MAN APAR
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTI
REMAR	X-MEN
REMAR-2	BOLD STA

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	PILYA
B	
C	

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CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEDALLION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TREK
CINEMA-6	TAKE MY BODY
CINEMA-7	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-8	JASON VS. FREDDY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA 15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

LORES

CINEMA-2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-1	MEDALLION
CINEMA-2	DARK WATER
CINEMA-4	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
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HEAD of STATE

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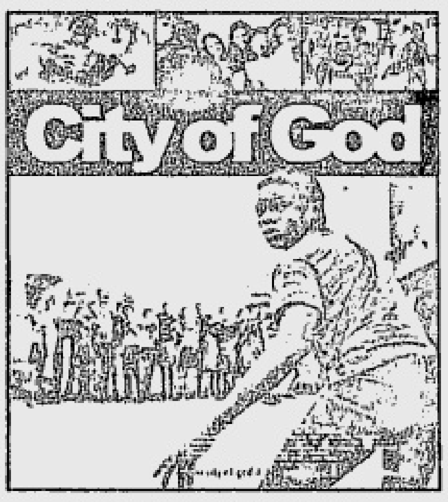

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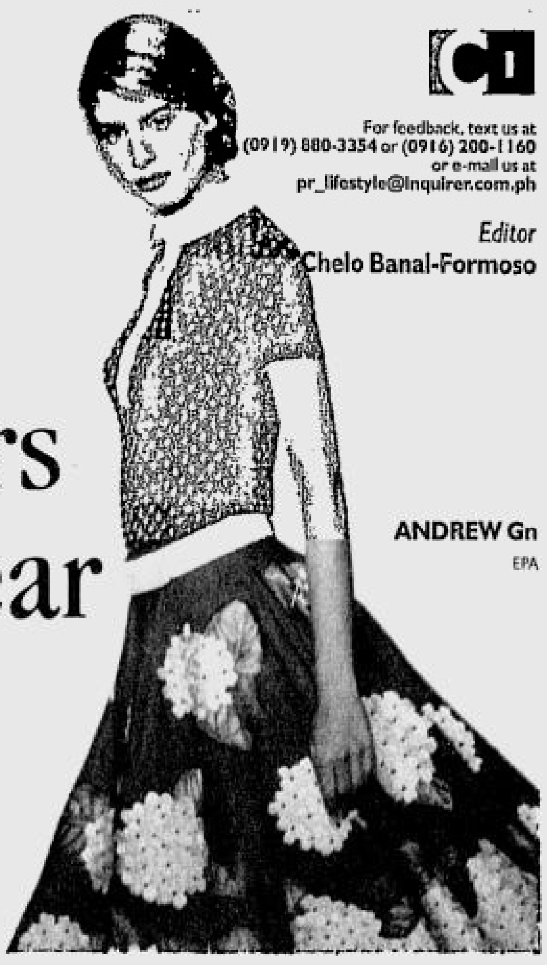
Editor
Chelo Banal-Formoso

Fashion's rising stars at Paris ready-to-wear week

Muted palettes, pretty and flirty florals, plunging necklines, bare skin and lots of draping in this first salvo from young off-the-rack designers

YOHJI Yamamoto
REUTERS



ANDREW Gn
EPA

PARIS—Young, up-and-coming designers took center stage Tuesday on the first official day of Paris fashion week.

On a cold, rainy day in the French capital, Andrew Gn's vision for next summer was sure to brighten the spirits of the waterlogged fashion crowd: pretty, flirty clothes bursting with colorful flowers.

Skirts blossomed with sprigs of lily of the valley while prim coats came alive with delicate rosebuds or blue and fuchsia Asian-inspired floral prints, a trademark detail in the work of the Paris-based Singapore native. Lacy eyelet blouses and mini-skirts with wide floral cutouts added to the fun feel, as did his final three mini-dresses in sky blue, bright yellow and peach, each accented with glittering collars and hip-hugging belts.

French designer Isabel Marant offered laid-back, wearable separates for next summer in body-skimming fabrics and light knits, in a range of cool colors like ice blue, sage, taupe and the ever-chic black and white. If the muted palette didn't exactly sizzle, the plunging necklines and bare skin did, with fluid silk tanks open to the waist and mini tunic dresses fit for a leggy goddess.

Yvan Mispelaere, who designed both ready-to-wear and haute couture for Feraud for several seasons, unveiled his second col-

FASHION'S/ C2

YOHJI Yamamoto
REUTERS

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ANDREW Gn EPA

PARIS-BASED Singaporean designer Andrew Gn showed skirts abloom with sprigs of lily of the valley, lacy eyelet blouses and mini-skirts. EPA

Fashion's rising stars at Paris ready-to-wear week

Yohji Yamamoto transformed immense vests into amusing skirts and played with the dimensions of classic tuxedo jackets

From page C1

lection under his own name—a study in cut, form and volume. He filled his show with low-slung skirts with rows of pleats, boxy blouses with high collars and loads of graphic details, like circular shoulder cut-outs and checkerboard prints in varying sizes.

Marc Le Bihan opted for performance art rather than a typical catwalk show, with his male and female models dancing and posing for the cameras on a runway that looked like a barren white wasteland—save for the black feathers.

Women covered in yards of tulle, silk chiffon and gauzy fabrics—mainly in black and white—gazed intently into the crowd as they wandered about. One came down the runway in a black tulle skirt and ballerina slippers on pointe.

Openers

Japan's Yohji Yamamoto and Jun Takahashi, along with Belgium's Martin Margiela, highlighted the value of form and structure Monday as they unveiled their collections for next spring to open Paris fashion week.

Yamamoto, who presented his more affordable Y's line for spring-summer 2004 on the eve of the official start of the runway show calendar, experimented with the traditional proportions of women's clothing.

MODELS take to the Paris catwalk wearing clothes by Belgian designer Vandervost EPA

HAIDER Ackermann REUTERS

GASPARD Yurkievich REUTERS

MARTIN Margiela AFP

MARTIN Margiela AFP

The veteran Japanese designer transformed immense vests into amusing skirts and played with the dimensions of classic tuxedo jackets. Blouses shifted off to one side with the addition of extra fabric. A dash of red silk enlivened his trademark muted color palette.

After creating living paper dolls last season, Takahashi was seeing double for next spring, using twins to showcase dueling silhouettes for his Undercover line—one trim and clean, the other loose-fitting and more daring.

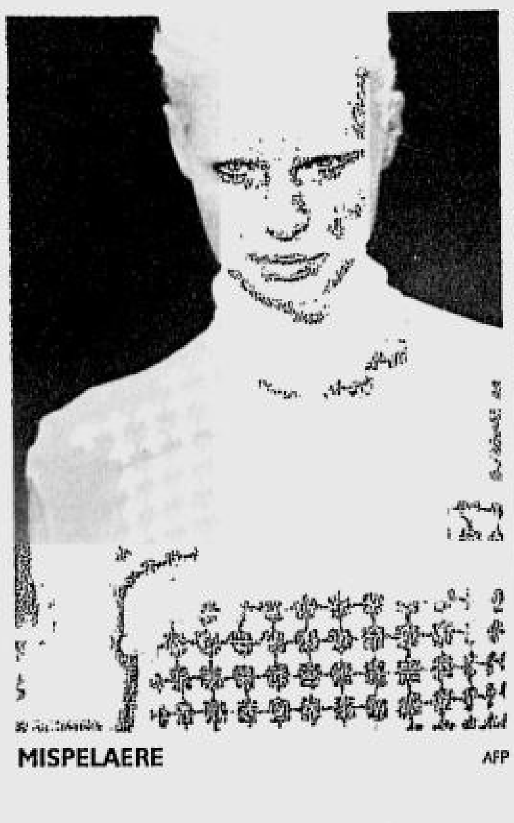
The identical models marched onto the runway in pairs to illustrate the concept. A cropped denim jacket and beige capris on one morphed into a puckered asymmetrical jacket and floor-skimming trousers on the other. A simple silk black tunic stretched into a full-length dress with a jagged hemline.

Margiela—known for his deconstructionist style—did not disappoint, pairing knee-length skirts with only the front half of jackets and blouses to reveal bare backs. Even the back half of the models' tights was stripped away.

His inside-out clothes are sewn to perfection—with the stitching in plain view—and when a blouse and skirt were not enough, he attached a second skirt to the front of the first, adding volume and texture.

While Takahashi was seeing double, Margiela's models could barely see at all: they walked through several rooms of the French capital's modern art museum with their hair flipped over their eyes and male partners to guide them. *AFP*

DIRK Bikkembergs EPA



MISPELAERE AFP

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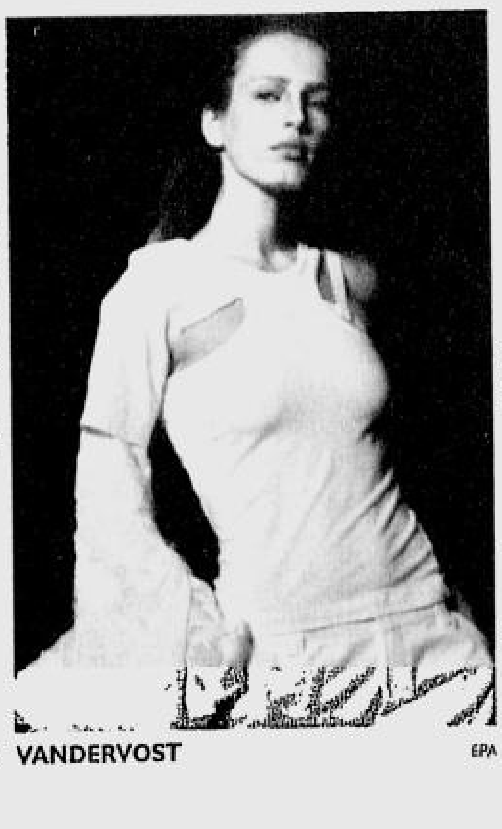

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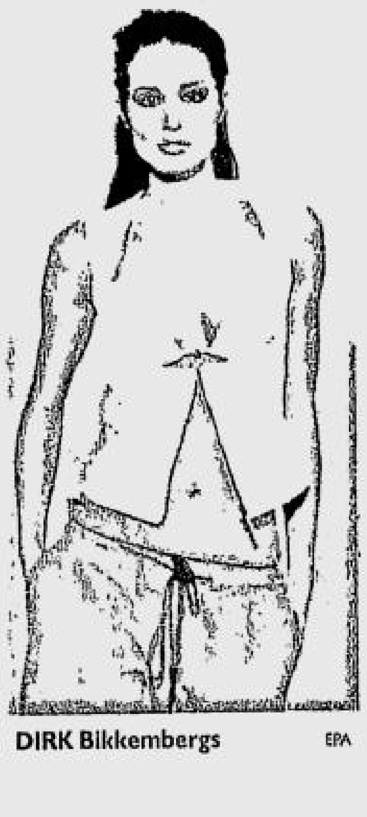

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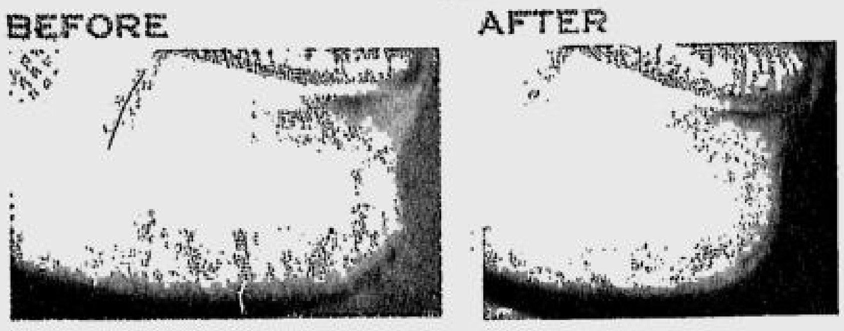
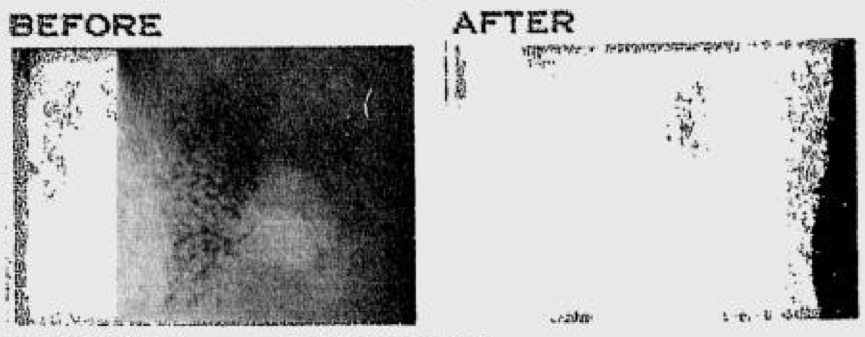


CHIN hair on girl removed with Nd:Yag laser



UNDERARM hair removed with Diode Laser

Laser treatments are an easy, relatively painless way to spare yourself countless hours of shaving and waxing unwanted body hair

Hair today, gone tomorrow

WHAT if I told you I no longer shave my underarms and wear sleeveless dresses whenever I want?

I no longer worry about my hormonal upper lip fuzz, too. Before you gross out, let me just say I did not turn hippy all of a sudden. I just discovered laser hair removal and am seriously considering having it done on the rest of my body.

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

It is so liberating to no longer have to rush to the salon to have my upper lip waxed or bleached every now and then. For my underarms, it used to be a choice between having stubble from shaving, or hiding them while waiting for hair to grow long enough to be waxed.

For those of you who are interested in laser hair removal, this is what you have to do: Make sure you have at least 1 millimeter of hair to start with, so the latest time you could shave before the procedure is three days. Don't make the mistake of waxing, or you will have to wait six to eight weeks before treatment.

The procedure is less time-consuming and definitely has zero pain compared to electrolysis. If you want to be ready for summer, now is the time to start. If you wait till then to begin, summer will be over by the time you are done.

Two options

How did I get into this? I was sent on an assignment by a ladies magazine to the Belo Medical Clinic to research on laser hair removal.

According to Dr. Joanna "Joey" Munoz, the procedure isn't permanent hair removal but more of permanent hair reduction. The clinic offers two kinds of treatment which she invited me to try out: the Diode Laser and the Nd:Yag Laser.

Most of their branches carry the Diode Laser, but the Morato branch uses the Nd:Yag laser. I tried the Diode Laser at the Makati branch for my underarms and did not require anesthesia, as the pain was barely noticeable.

The result: Regrowth was really slow, and till my next treatment four and a half weeks later, I shaved only once in 15 days. The hair was baby-fine and almost invisible. Reduction was by at least 30 percent.

At the Morato branch, I volunteered my upper lip for the Nd:Yag with Dr. Zaide Zagala. The procedure was noticeably more painful without topical anesthesia.

The regrowth was even slower, as the Nd:Yag treatment is supposed to go deeper. My next treatment is scheduled six weeks from now at the earliest. Both treatments average a 20-percent reduction in body hair each time, so four to six sessions are required, depending on how hairy you are.

Other facts about laser hair removal: Absolutely no bleaching or waxing allowed before and in between treatments. After the very last session, hair may still grow back, but these are very light and weak. You can tug them and they snap off easily and painlessly.

Lasers work best with light skin and dark hair. You don't have to be very light-skinned, though; it's just that the contrast between hair and skin can be very noticeable.

Do not tan before treatment. Otherwise, the laser light will not be able to detect hair and nothing will be eliminated, or your skin may discolor from the light.

Similarly, hair that is too fine, light and barely noticeable will not be detected and the doctor will therefore reject you for treatment. This means coarse and dark hair is the ideal candidate for laser removal.

There are six levels of skin tones: 1 (porcelain to ivory—think Kris Aquino, Lucy Torres and Carmina Villaroel), 2 (light or pale beige—Sunshine Cruz and Nanette Medved), 3 (medium—still light-skinned like Regine Velasquez), 4 (golden to olive), 5 (dark) and 6 (very dark).

Diode works best with skin types 1-3, perhaps up to 4, while Nd:Yag works best on the rest. My skin tone is level 2.

Call the Belo Clinic at 817-7178/9283 (Makati) and 373-3188/4088 (Morato).

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com.

Don't Let ACNE
Scar Your Son or Daughter --*for life*
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Who hasn't seen many an adult's face pockmarked by ugly scars left by acne or pimples? Such eruptions usually start with adolescence – which is when you should begin fighting them, as they come.

Gina Banate Gulfan
Student Council President
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On stylish sunglasses and chic cover-ups

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

I WANT to buy a pair of sunglasses but I don't know how to choose the right style. Every time I try on a pair, I feel so ugly and trying hard. I have a round face and a small and not-so-narrow nose. What should I consider when picking the perfect pair? What are the latest styles and which ones will surpass trends?

"Finding the perfect pair of shades largely depends on one's personal style. Nowadays, people wear what they want and go by preference," says Dr. Baby Sarabia Morales of Sarabia-Morales Optical in Rockwell Center.

Having said that, she stresses that one should also remember to choose sunglasses based not just on one's style but also on what would complement one's facial features.

"Larger features require larger frames, and vice versa. To counterbalance a round face, try angular shaped shades. Avoid shapes that are too round or too square. For an oval face, pick something wider in a rectangular shape," she says.

Color is also an important consideration. "The color of the frame should not be darker than the wearer's hair color, although sometimes large dark frames can exude elegance and look very striking," adds Dr. Sarabia-Morales.

She also advises individuals with noses that are not too tall and narrow to choose sunglasses with adjustable nose pads and to stay away from frames that are too large. "Fortunately, metal frames are in fashion and almost all metal frames come with nose pads. One may also try a frame with a light colored bridge, which is set high on the frame. Generally, one should avoid thick bridges."

Some of the more popular styles that have become classics are the following:

CHOOSE sunglasses based not just on your style and facial features.

SILHOUETTE AND SARABIA OPTICAL IN ROCKWELL CENTER

Aviators. These are usually egg-shaped with the pointed section directed toward the bridge of the nose. Also known as McArthurs, as the famous general was often pictured wearing them, classic aviator sunglasses are gold-colored metal frames with smoke lenses.

Jackie O's. These are large plastic frames that are round to soft square in shape. Not all Filipinos can get away with wearing these, as our small nose bridge will cause the eyewear to ride on our cheeks.

John Lennons. These are small and round wire frames in gold with very dark lenses. They are not the best size in terms of sun protection.

Rimless. As the name implies, these are sunglasses without rims and come with mounting to hold it together. These are lightweight and are available in various shapes.

Wraps. These are large sunglasses that are curved to follow the shape of the face for maximum protection. They can come with left and right lenses or just a one-piece sheet of lens that covers both eyes. They come in either plastic or metal frames and are quite popular nowadays. The frames are usually silver in color while the lenses are only slightly tinted (usually pale green, blue, pink, violet, gold, etc.) with a metallic silver coat on the top half for improved sun protection.

Dr. Sarabia-Morales wisely counsels that beyond fashion and looking good, one should first consider safety.

"Sunglasses should, at the minimum, protect the wearer from the harmful UV rays of the sun," she says. "Prolonged, unprotected exposure of the eyes to the sun's rays can cause the early onset of cataracts. If one engages in sports or other outdoor activities, wearing the right type of lenses will make the activity more enjoyable and one's performance optimum. For example, polarized lenses, which are perfect for water sports like fishing, help eliminate reflected glare, thus making it easier to see clearly and making colors more vibrant."

I will be attending a wedding and most of my existing gowns have halter tops or spaghetti straps. I'll be the lector during the Mass and I want to look appropriate. What do you suggest I wear to cover up aside from the usual shawl, which keeps falling off? Or if I do wear one, what's the best way to keep it in place? I don't want to look like a *manang*.

It's a good idea to wear a cover-up during the Mass, especially because you are the lector. Since 1997 or thereabouts, the church has been more particular about the gown styles of brides and their entourage.

I know for a fact that in certain parishes, one might be fined and not allowed to walk down the aisle if one's gown is too risqué or cut too low. And although you will not be traipsing down the aisle, it's better to display a modicum of modesty by wearing a cover-up.

The good news is that you need not look like a *manang* or a matron when you wrap up. There are stylish cover-ups that you can choose to complement your gowns.

One fashionable option would be to wear a shrug, a little sweater or really tiny jacket that covers only your shoulders, a little of your back (maybe 1/4) and your arms, depending on the sleeve-length you prefer (long, 3/4, short or even cap).

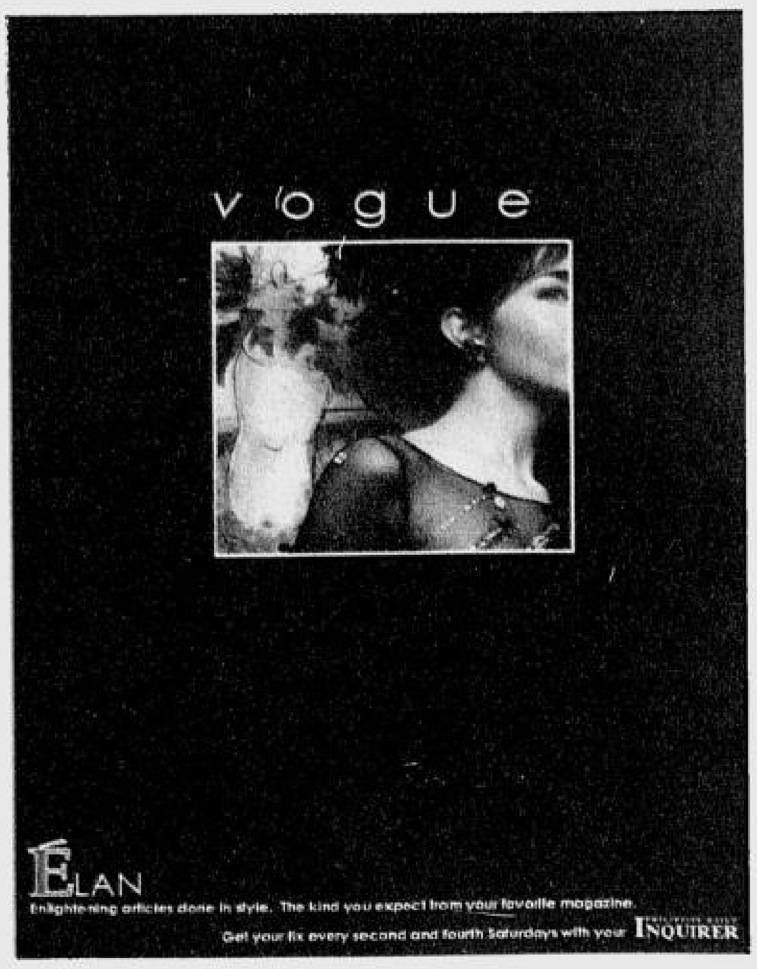
You can either have it made or you can try scouring the stores for one. A shrug would be perfect for you, as it provides just enough coverage but still looks young, sexy and chic.

Another interesting alternative would be to wear a vivid and vibrant *manton de Manila*, a large Spanish-inspired shawl or wrap that is usually emblazoned with embroidered floral designs and fringes. Although a *manton* is quite heavy and therefore harder to keep on your shoulders, its sheer beauty is well worth the trouble of keeping it in place.

A fellow fashionista suggested that you use double-sided tape (the same one that J.Lo uses to keep her plunging necklines from moving about) to keep the *manton* or any shawl in place. It just might work with the shawl, but the *manton* might still be too heavy. It's best to do a dry run before the wedding day.

If you have no other choice but to wear a shawl, keep it from falling off by hooking it over your shoulders, bringing the ends under your arms and around your back where you can tie it into a double knot. This way, it stays in place, covers you shoulders and a portion of your upper arms but does not look matronly.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com



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LIFESTYLE Home

T'NALAK, Davao, Davao del Sur. [illegible] Lorenzo, Mikey Magpayo, [illegible] Ricafort and Donn So

Around RP in a day

Students of the Philippine School of Interior Design make Wow Philippines look truly wow

WHAT'S ON at Robinsons

MAUI TAYLOR

Look who's turning up the heat at Robinsons this weekend. Viva Hot Babe Maui Taylor takes on Sta. Rosa in a mall show that promises to be an afternoon of spectacular entertainment.

[illegible]

ROBINSONS Place STA ROSA

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

FILIPINOS and foreigners can now savor the archipelago's myriad colors and textures in less than a day.

In lieu of a Philippine village featuring replicas of the country's famed attractions, however, "travelers" will be transported to 33 local destinations as interpreted by graduating students of the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID).

In the past several months, over a hundred PSID students grouped themselves and went about researching, designing, constructing and sourcing furniture and accent pieces to come up with a montage of living spaces, offices and commercial areas.

Dubbed "Interior Spaces-Local Application" or ISLA, PSID's latest show takes visitors to as far north as stormy Batanes to the hinterlands of Zamboanga and Basilan down south. It's the first time in its 36-year history that PSID is tackling the theme.

The month-long show at the 52nd and 53rd floors of the PBCom Tower on Ayala Avenue in Makati is open Monday to Sunday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission is free.

Whereas previous batches focused on trends, this year's graduating students deviate from tradition by coming up with their interpretation of a particular destination. The theme is also in keeping with the Department of Tourism's efforts to promote 2003 as tourism year.

"It doesn't matter whether their approach is traditional or modern," says Jie Pambid, dean of PSID. "What's important is they capture the essence of the place through an interplay of old, new or stylized elements."

Nowhere perhaps is this contrast more evident than in the Ilocos Region.

Traditional

While the Ilocos Norte-inspired living room teems with modern elements representing the province's topography and certain industries—a pair of garlic-shaped ottomans is whimsical yet functional, its Ilocos Sur counterpart is charming if a bit laidback with a look that harks back to the turn of the last century.

Traditional elements such as Yakan-woven seat covers, intricate beams and a bone inlaid Maranao chest also abound in the Zamboanga-inspired dining room.

One of the table's focal points is a table runner that echoes the *vinta*'s bold colors. For added authenticity, one of the fruits on the table is a smelly *durian*.

Water surrounds what is supposed to be a house on stilts. *Nipa* palms are visible beyond the dining area to simulate the outdoors.

Indeed, the use of real plants, "Boracay" sand and various water features has become more the norm than the exception.

Small wonder as PSID takes pride in requiring its students to use the real thing. Faux walls and furniture pieces made of cardboard and styrofoam have no place in ISLA.

Neighboring Davao makes use of traditional and modern elements centered on the *tinalak* fabric.

Aside from a series of wall panels wrapped in *tinalak*, the fabric's pattern is echoed in the frosted glass. Giant Maranao drums and sev-

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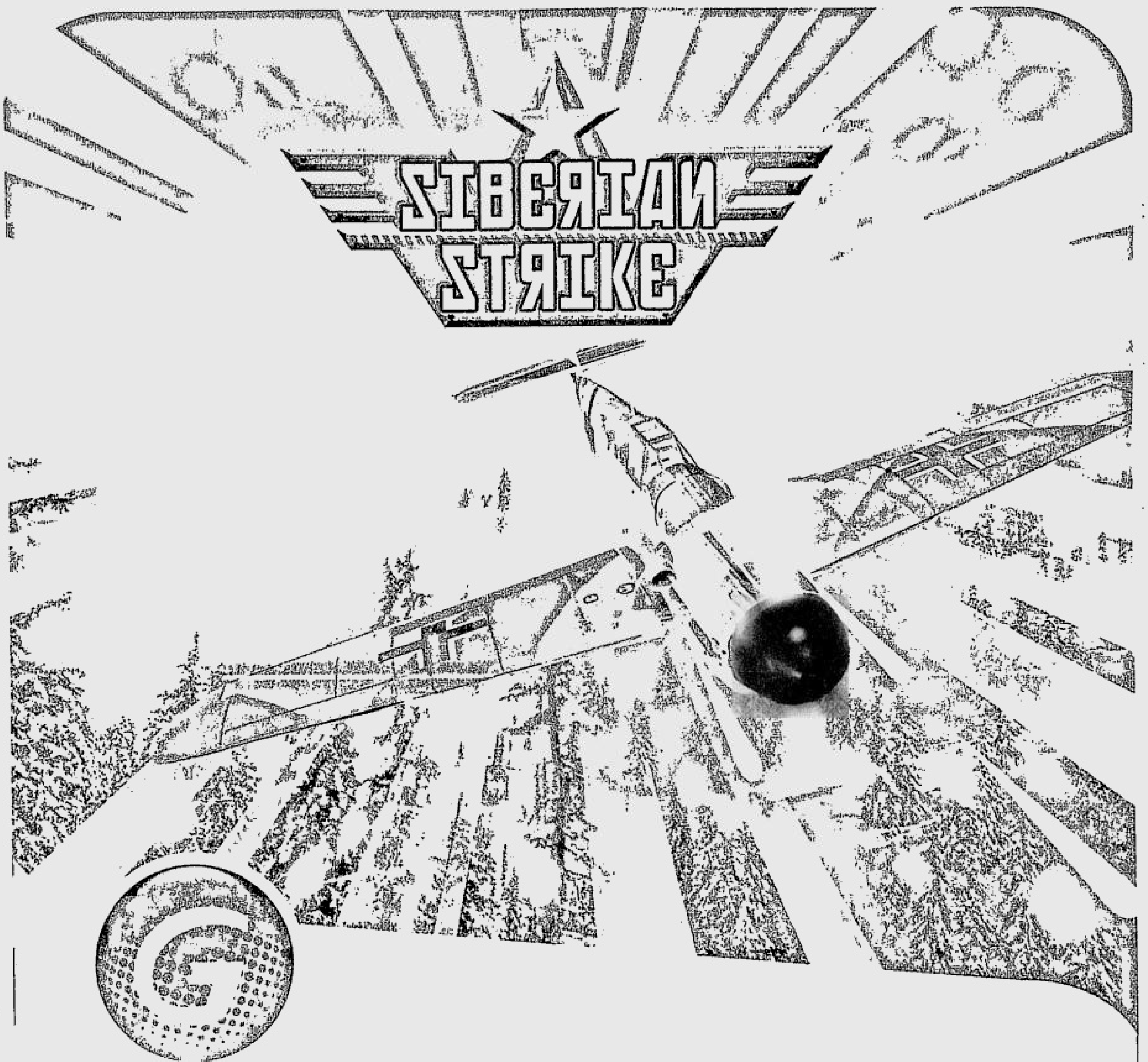

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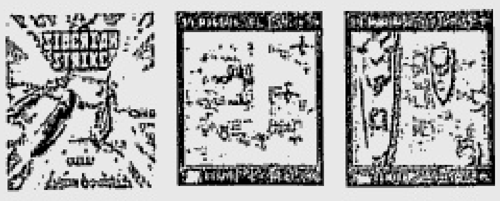

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making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

CHILLING OUT. Taking a breather with Iris Chan (fourth from right) after the super successful launch of CK watches at Resto 12 are Brad Geiser, managing director of Geiser Maclang Communications Inc.; Sara Masakayan and Judy Cordova, GMCI project head; Amor Maclang; Janet Man and Stephanie Chung

THE BEAUTIES and the rich: Time Depot's mega executive Richmond Lim surrounded by beauties adorned with gleaming new CK timepieces

Tracking time with the other kind of Calvins

Gorgeous timepieces received a rousing welcome from Manille's fashionable set

IRIS Chan, vice president of the CK division of The Swatch Group (Hong Kong) Limited; presidential daughter Luli Macapagal Arroyo and Roger Lim, chair of Time Depot which offers premium watches for all occasions

RICARDO "Dong" Puno Jr.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen on Kodak Max

HOLD your breath, you true blue trendies. It's not **Giorgio Armani** who will design the next watch couture collection for your sexy wrist. The man who unveiled his hip collection in Cosmo-Manille recently was none other than **Calvin Klein**, *palanggas*.

His contemporary and sensual watches received an enthusiastic welcome from our town's fashionable set when they were launched at Restaurant 12.

Amiable **Iris Chan**, vice president of the CK division of The Swatch Group (Hong Kong) Limited, jetted in from Hong Kong to present the collection. The lunch affair turnout included presidential daughter **Luli Macapagal-Arroyo**, ABS-CBN's **Dong Puno**, as well as business associates and pals of **Roger Lim**, chair of Belrewmond Co., and **Richmond Lim**, who heads Time Depot, the watch specialty store granted the exclusive right to carry the CK watch line here.

Versatile newscaster Riki Kwek emceed the affair, while models, led by **Rissa Mananquil-Samson**, showed off the breathtaking watches to a transfixed audience.

It got too warm so I went out at one point for a breath of fresh air. There I chatted with G.O. (not **Gracie Go**, silly), and while we were on the subject of watches, she said, "The only reason I wear a watch (an authentic Rolex, mind!) is to see how late I am. Somehow I can never arrive on time."

"Lady," I assured her, "you ain't alone."

LOVERS of the week: Gorgeous Cheska Litton and Store Specialists' Mike Tantoco-Huang at Resto 12

BEAUTIFUL coosome twosome of the weekend: Cinderella's new guard Richie Santos and stunning beauty, Washington babe Joy Hendrickson

Orange madness

Hardworking socialites **Nini Valdez** and **Cora Relova** painted their favorite Tuesday night hangout, Dish, a flaming orange for their recent birthday party. Tons of orange balloons and flowers covered the place.

Also required to be in orange get-ups were the pair's Assumption HS '62 gang, which included **Mila Lacdao, Becky Yaptinchay, Omang Palanca, Ana de Dios, Lyn Velayo** and **Vicky Chan**.

At another table, swinging in full force to the pulsating music, were Nini's birthday clubbers **Tina Laurel**, the **Morales** sisters **Mano** and **Nina, Carmen Ocampo, Gingging Lopez** and **Thelma Ampil**.

A foursome somewhere in front were **Pochit** and **Belen Castro** with Usec. **Frank Ebdalin** and wife **Cor Yulo-Ebdalin**.

Needless to say, with yummy chow like *lumpia* with *tuyo* (dried fish) and salted eggs from Barangay, pizza from Luna and one-of-a-kind parmesan chips from Dish by **Tess Litton**, girls like Scholasticans **Cuca Garcia, Marissa Gonzales, Nannette Garcia** and **Melinda Zeñarosa** had great fun.

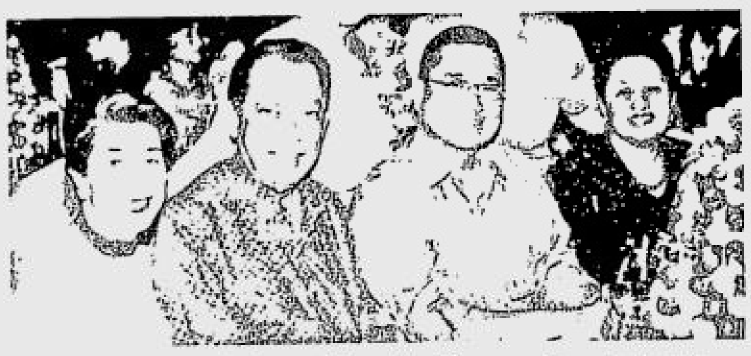
Also present were guys from Ateneo HS Batch '61—**Ramon Jacinto, Bogie Garcia, Joey Leviste, Monry Mapa, Deo Dionisio** and banker **Jovy Cruz** with their "bitter wives," as one of the guys told *moi* jokingly.

The birthday gals' college classmate at the Assumption in San Lorenzo, **Honeygirl Singson-de Leon** of PCSO, also rushed over from her work.

Others who made it were congressional couple **Raul** and **Julitá Villareal**, Ambassador **Virgil Reyes** and super gent **Dick Ng**.

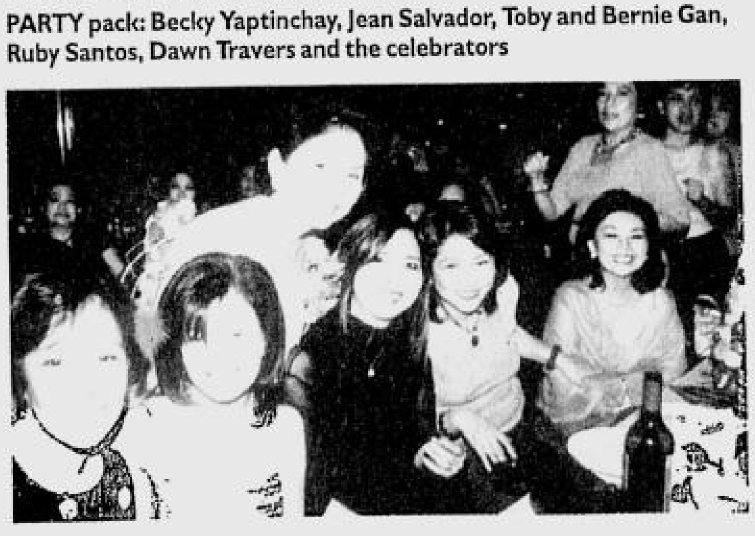
Dishing out retro sounds, *palanggas*, was the Spirit of '67 Band, which is fast becoming a legend. Shortly after dinner and and as soon as Nini V. blew her infamous whistle, everyone stood up and, like soldiers in a drill, started swaying left-right, left-right, until everyone had caught the beat. In no time, dahlings, all hell had broken loose!

And what's a party without the alcohol boosters provided by Nini's game hubby, in-demand lawyer **Amboy Valdez**, who made sure booze flowed endlessly?



FUN with "it" couples Ina and Manoling Dizon and jeweler Ronnie Velayo with his Swiss-educated wife Marilyn Santos

PARTY pack: Becky Yaptinchay, Jean Salvador, Toby and Bernie Gan, Ruby Santos, Dawn Travers and the celebrators



GALS with orange fever: Chickie Rialp, Maripi Muscat, Gina Zablan, Therese Santos and Becky Garcia with Nini V.

Spotting them

It could have been Mars' moving away from earth that accounted for such a dizzy weekend recently.

At Greenbelt 3, a new superstar in men's wardrobe was unveiled. Springfield is a hip brand from Spain that has hit our shores with a bang. Stores Specialists, Inc. opened this fab store with an all-male fashion show at the lobby of the mall.

Naturally, a mad rush took place after the show and had the fashionable set going over the merchandise like doughnuts. Store Specialists' **Anton Huang** couldn't have been happier.

Popular Restaurant 12, on the other hand, was packed with early and late diners who wanted to catch the last two days of that smashingly successful Moroccan feast superbly prepared by gifted guest chef **Debbie Enriquez**.

Namedroppables enjoying the cuisine were **Ria Lopez** with **Enrique Gonzalez, Dondi Joseph, Richard Uysinseng** from the Cebu Chapter of La Chaine des Rotisseurs, super adman **David Guerrero** and wife **Angel**, soon-to-wed **JC Bernardo** with fiance **Faye Tiu-Laurel**, vivacious **Nanette de Leon** and **Anton** and **Liza Periquet**.

Body beautiful **Vicky Solo** came daily for the Moroccan treats, especially the serpent cakes. Ditto with BPI's **Gigi Montinola**, vibrant **Gracie Glory Go**, the gorgeous **Panlilio** gals **Vicky Olaparols** and sister **Nona**, good-looking **Robby Delgado** with CFO **Soc Niro** and brilliant **Basil Ong**, gorgeous couple **Fred** and **Kessy Uytengsu**, plus so many others who kept coming back for seconds, *palanggas*.

Breezing in for late-night drinks were the gang of mega hair stylist **Jessie Mendez** and wife **Gina**, with "back-in-Manille-for-good" **Lorna Verano Yap, Rupert** and **Tina Jacinto, George Sison** and three other pals.

Party fever

At Kai, Philippine Tatler's **Anton San Diego** was having a late dinner with handsome actor (and band leader of Blow!, would you believe?) **Diether Ocampo**.

Glam **Imelda Marcos** was also there, with Blue Lady **Lulu Tinio, Dudo Vaca** and Singapore-based **Greg Marshall**.

At Dream Bar, partying to the hilt were Kashieca's **Karen Santos**, businessman **Jacques de Dupasquier, Peng** and **Vickie Perez de Tagle, Monch Cruz, Leica Carpo**, southern gent **Alvaro Pertiera** (in town for a breather from Bacolod), **Rhett Eala**, el guapo **Louis Terry** and debonaire **Ito Feliciano**, all of whom were swinging to the sounds spun by the **Dario** boys.

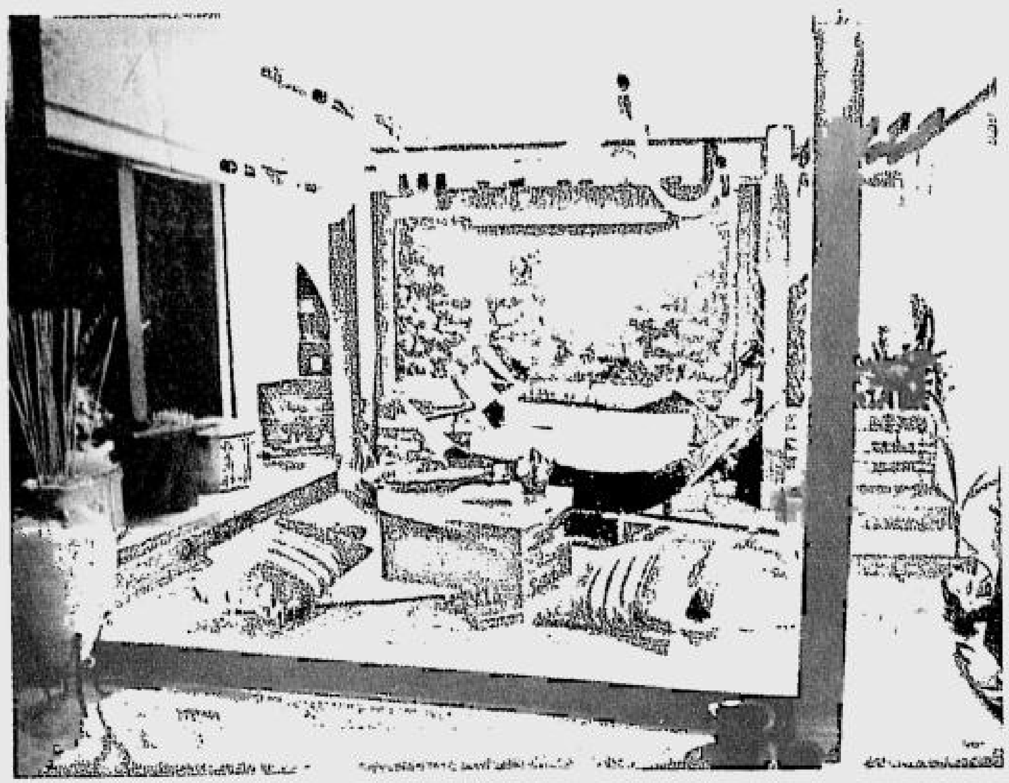
At the fantastic **Sergio Mendez** concert at Star City's Aliw Theater, spotted rocking to the Latin beat were **Bencab** with **Annie Santos** and **Josine Elizalde, Nonoy Aquino, Alex** and **Marixi Prieto, Cary Rufino** and a date, **Charlie** and **Chivit Rufino, Johnny Velasquez** and **Maripi Muscat, Bibing Villanueva** with **Maricor Nieto** and **Girl Villareal**.

Other Brazil 66 followers included **Rio Cojuangco, Viol Delgado**, businessman **Manoling Cojuangco** with **Teddy Villanueva, Mon Abad**, and **Nina Romualdez** with **Bert Garcia**.

And who was this high-profile politician sitting in a really dim corner outside V last Saturday night with his gorgeous date, with eyes only for each other? At one point, he even gave her a quick peck on the cheek. Ooolala, I wonder what his stay-at-home wife was thinking of at the time.

LADIES' man Arthur Antonino with jet-setting Josephine Knox

THE DANCING pack: Hugo Bunzl with Lanie Aquino, artist par excellence Budji Layug and Dick Ng; (standing) the orange duo, birthday gals Nini Valdez and Cora Relova, with Consul Pierre Coquillat and Dish's pretty woman Alice Labao



BALSA, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental. Ed Cabigas, Mary Co, Sheng Rosagazo and Aldrich Tan

KALAKAL, Makati, Metro Manila. Rhea Chuateco, Loi Cristobal, Shiel Garcia, Mindy Kaw and Cheska Mendoza

Around RP in a day

From page D1

eral authentic accent pieces are juxtaposed with the streamlined sofa. A platform or *papag* (day bed) above an indoor pool made of mosaic tiles is the group's version of a house on stilts.

In contrast to the traditional displays are ultra-modern ones that make use of unlikely materials and inspirations.

A nearly all-white bar cum restaurant inspired by Bukidnon, for instance, is far removed from what one expects to see in the mountainous province. Floor tiles made of glass and shaped like giant leaves and back-lit walls fashioned from frosted glass with transparent silhouettes are said to represent Bukidnon's lush vegetation, particularly its huge pineapple plantations.

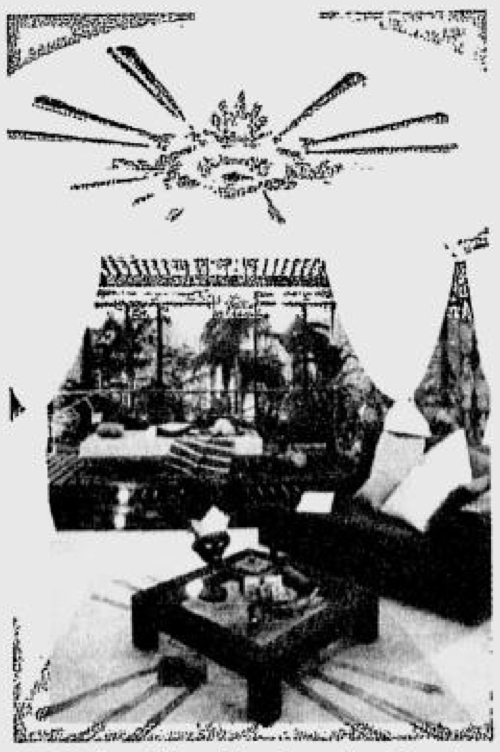
Indigenous

Several groups go beyond the symbolic by either sourcing materials indigenous to the province or at least their equivalents. The spacious Albay-inspired bathroom, for one, makes use of fused volcanic rocks as part of the walls.

The group behind Cebu did a lanai that mimicked a beach resort in Mactan, a small island off Cebu City. The interplay of materials includes abundant use of Mactan stone and cream-colored sand to achieve a contemporary yet stylish resort feel.

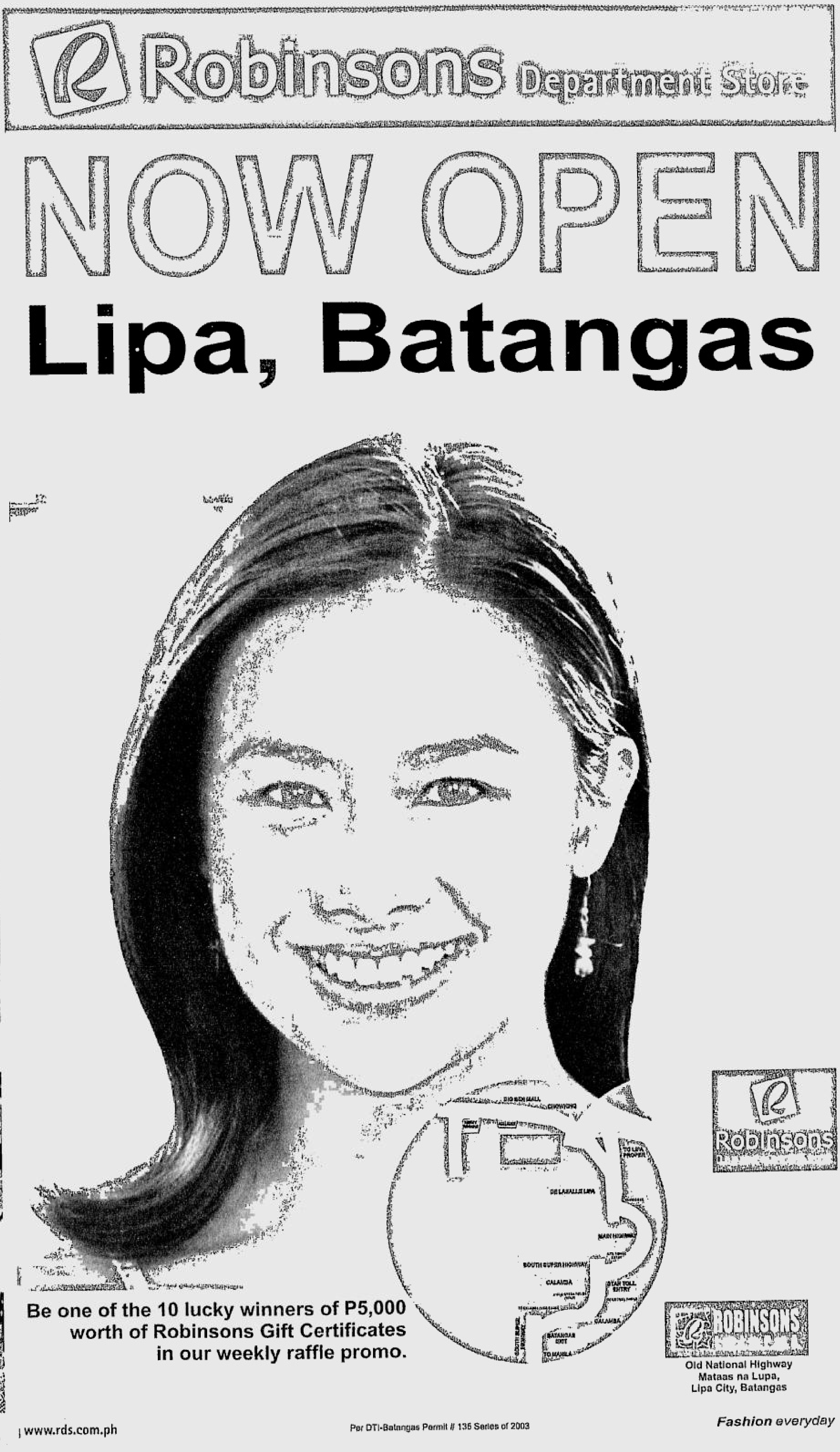
While the Cebu group veered from the stereotype, the Makati group met the challenge head on by drawing inspiration from the financial district's cosmopolitan character: fiberglass steps leading to an elevated office space with picture windows supposedly

AROUND/ D4



ATI, Kalibo, Aklan. Aissa Gonzalez, Carmi Martin and Jen Newfield

BADJAO, Zamboanga, Zamboanga. Judith Belen, Abigail Sinjian and Therese Yupangco



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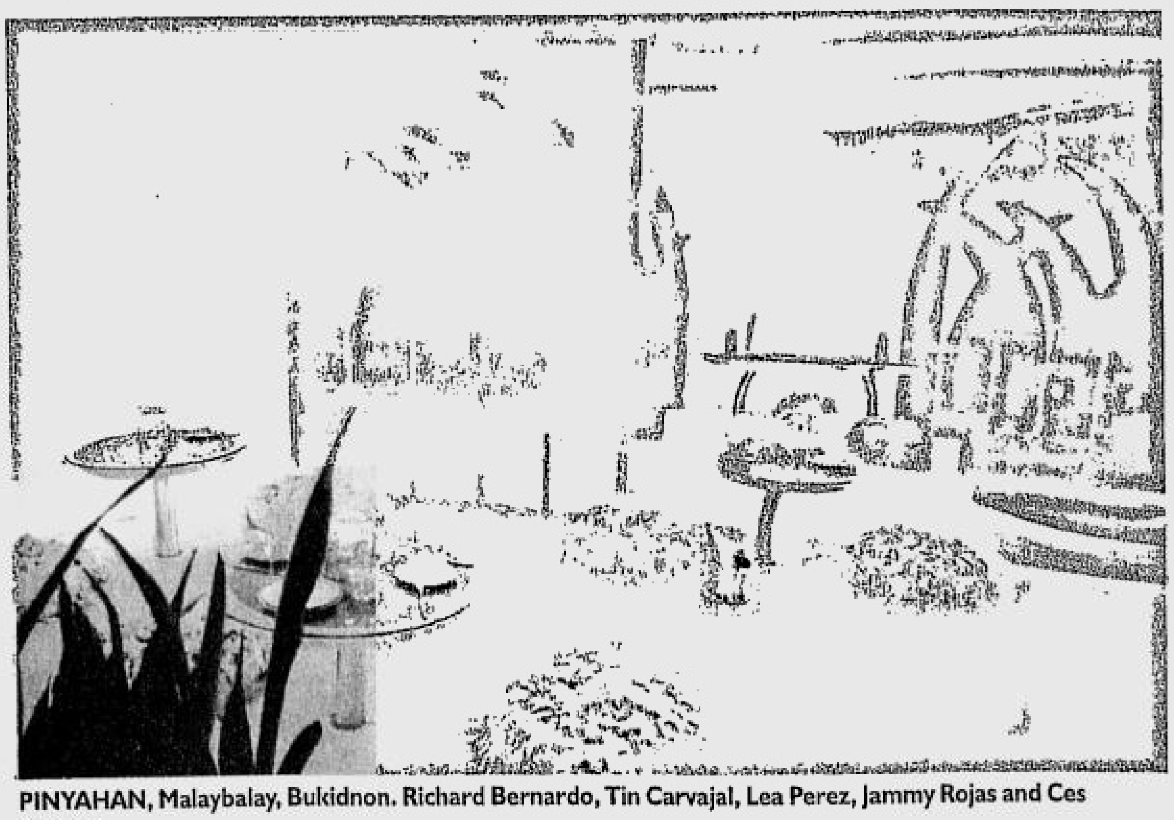
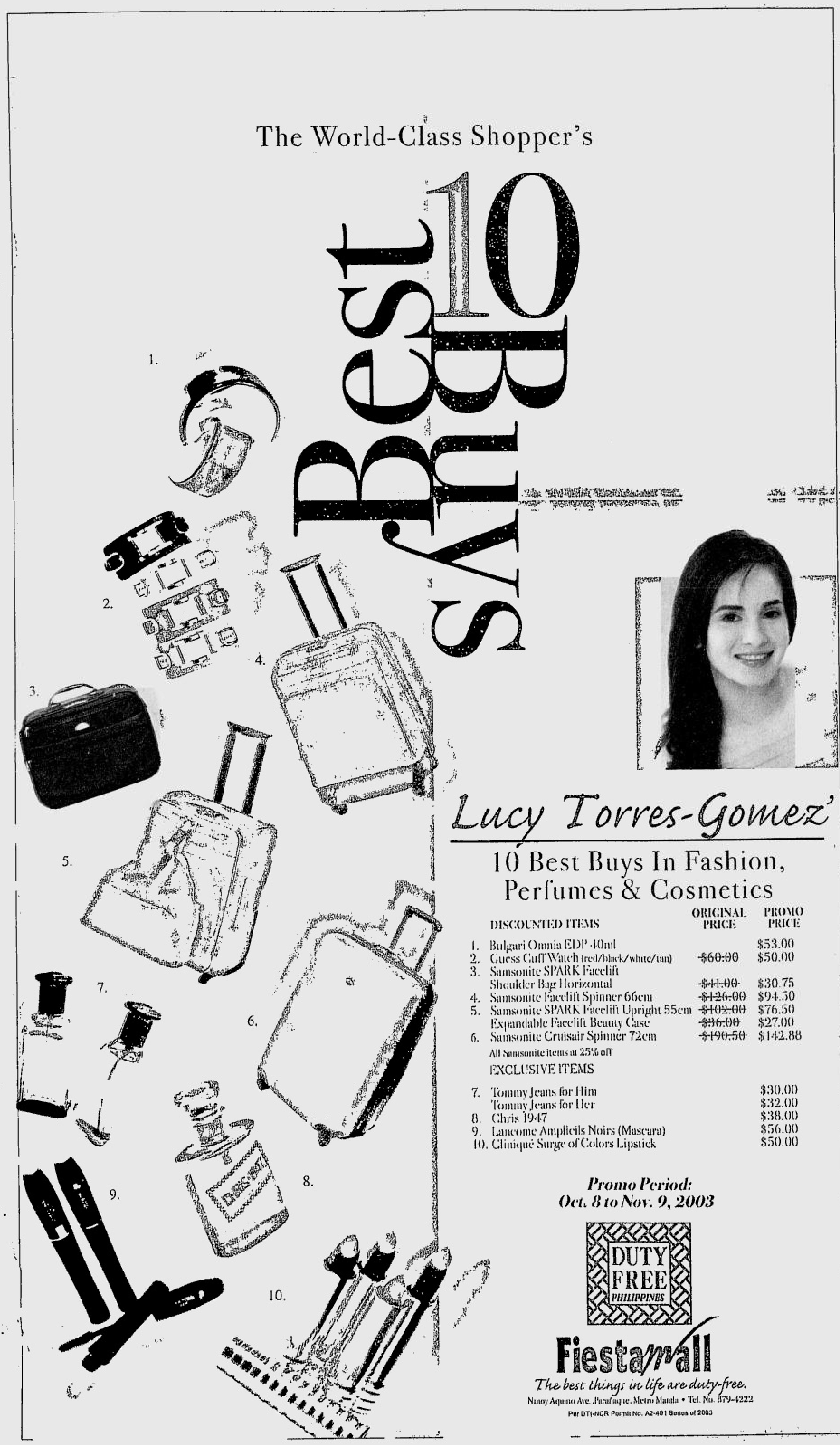


PINYAHAN, Malaybalay, Bukidnon. Richard Bernardo, Tin Carvajal, Lea Perez, Jammy Rojas and Ces Sanchez

BALAY, Silay, Negros Occidental. Melanie Cruz, Minette Fabian, Dana Mercader, Neth Patani and Aileen Yap



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Around RP in a day

From page D3

providing the head honcho with a bird's eye view of the entire metropolis.

Others, like the Binondo group, drew from a mélange of influences to come up with a silky red "Chinoy" bedroom teeming with Chinese, Spanish and Filipino elements.

Topography also figured in a number of displays, particularly Batanes, Boracay, Los Baños and Calauit.

The Batanes group, for instance, did a bathroom pieced mostly from jagged stones. A glass-paneled window is perennially splashed with water to imply a raging storm outside.

First-hand research

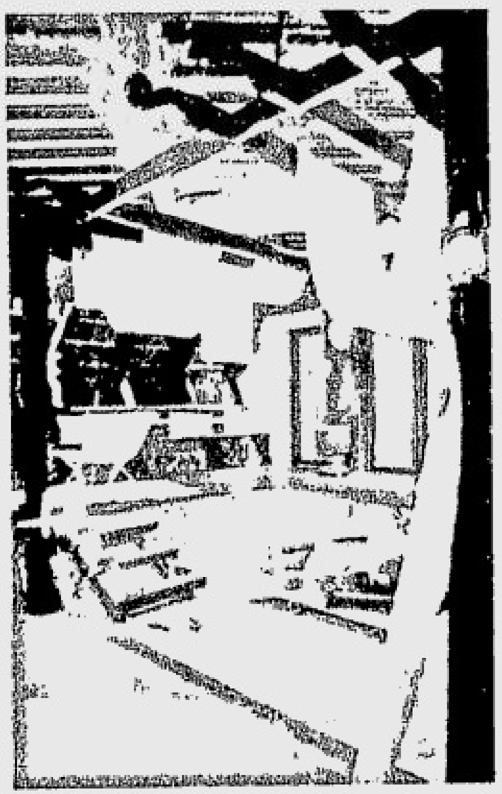
Not a few students traveled to their assigned cities or regions to draw ideas as well as do first-hand research. Some paid tribute to traditions, practices and fiestas.

The Antique group, for instance, derived inspiration from the Ati-Atihan festival as reflected in the display's lighting fixtures, columns and wall treatments. In lieu of bold colors, however, the group chose muted shades inspired by shields and spears.

"This exhibit only goes to show that this year's batch was able to distill the soul and essence of a place through their respective works," says Pambid. "We hope people will find them interesting." So which destination will it be for you?

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

MONG, Binondo, Manila. Cholo Arucan, Lyra Meneses, Mariter Nuñez, Joel Tagalang and Mitch Villa-Abrille



BATO, Mactan, Cebu. Vannie Chew, Jo Go, April Lamprea, Sche Lee Sunga and Raya Mendoza

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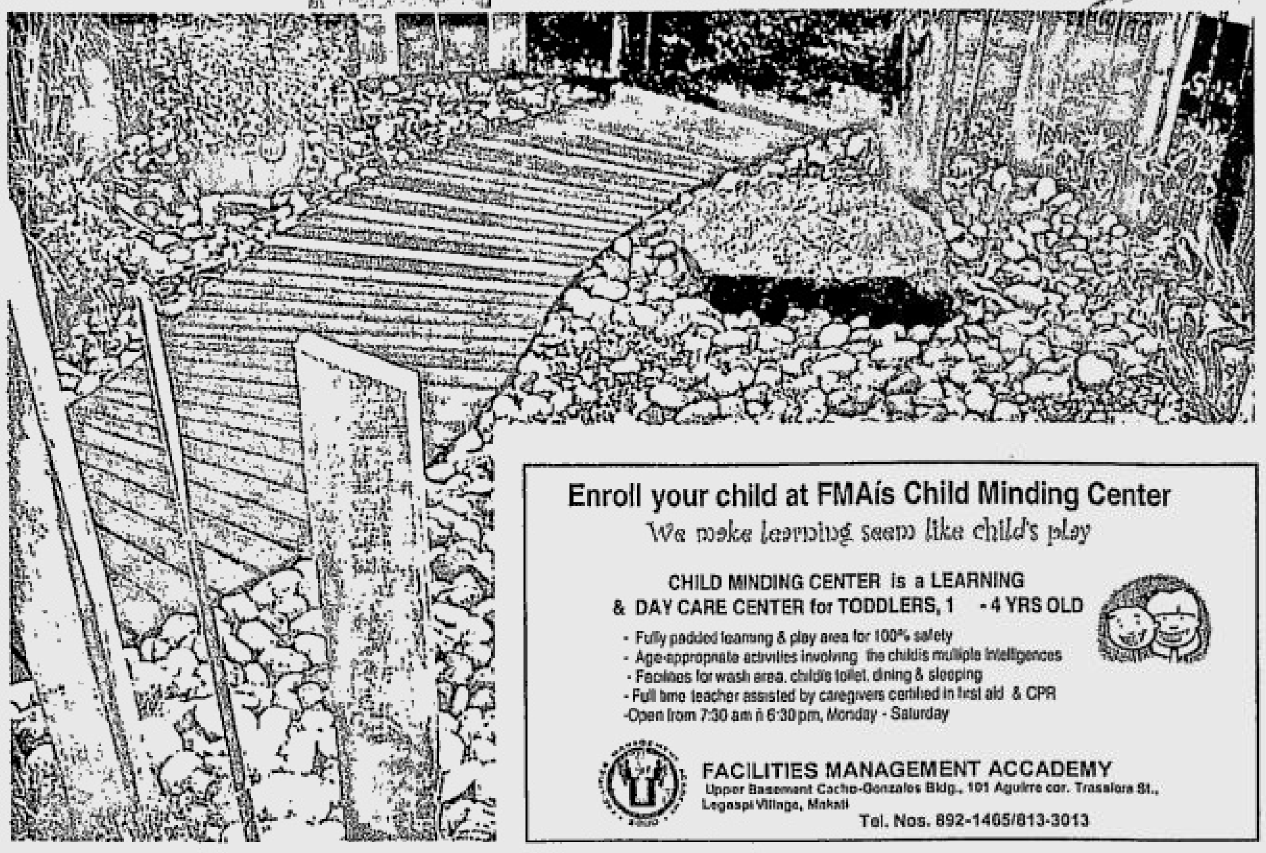
Lecture-demo on mini gardens



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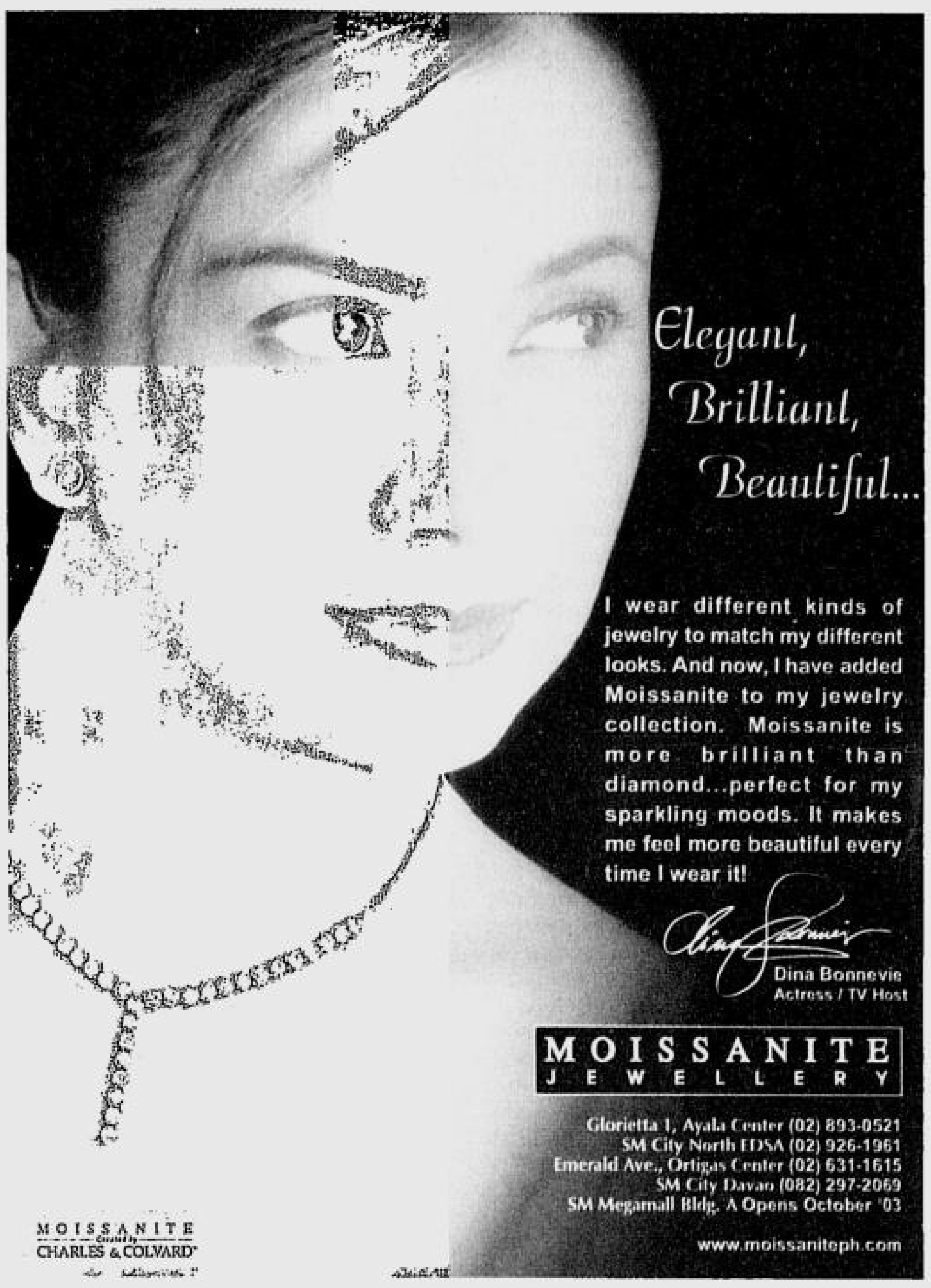

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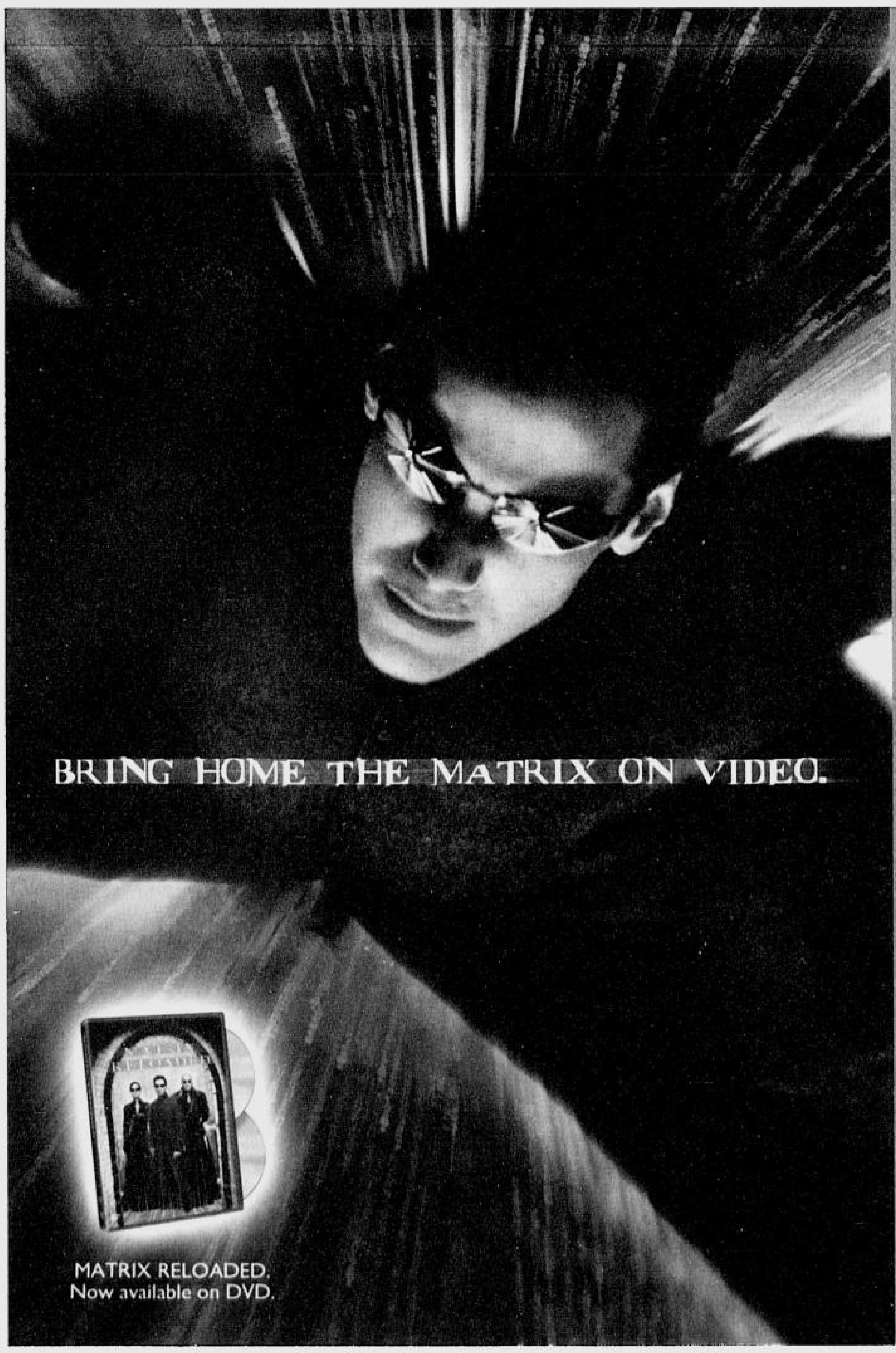
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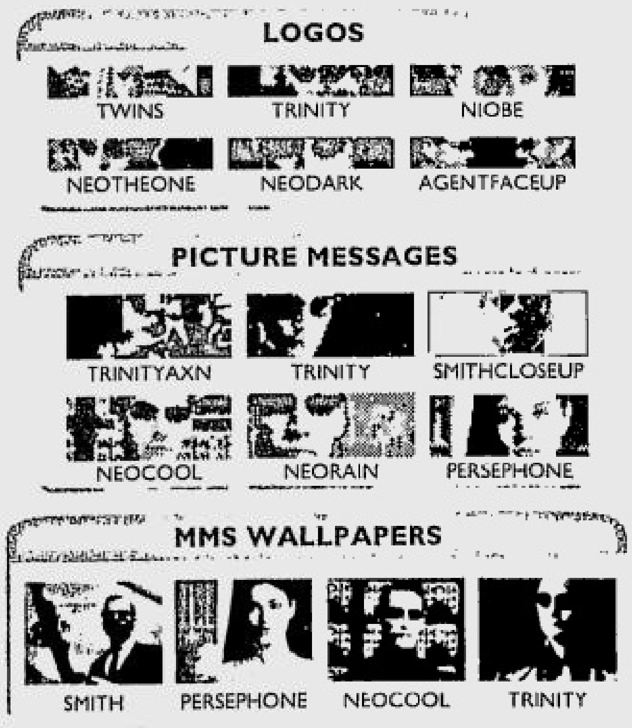

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Waiting to hear three little words

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My problem started when I met Niel (not his real name) late last year.

He works as a sales representative in a company, is 26 years old, three years older than me. He has all the qualities I am looking for in a man. We became good friends, he would often send me text messages. I realized I had fallen in love with him, but never had the courage to tell him that I cared. I did not want to ruin our (friendship).

There were times I did not understand his (reactions), like when he would become irritated when other men friends would text me. Was he jealous?

One day, I decided to tell him that I was going with my mom to Los Angeles for a six-month vacation, but of course, I was not. I was just hoping that he would finally (say) the words I had been wanting to hear from him. That night I could not sleep because he told me he cared for me, he hoped I wouldn't forget him because he loved me. He said so through text only.

The next day things went back to normal again. He would just send me text messages saying he missed me, and I would text him that I missed him also. There were times when we talked, I would call him *kuya* and he would not answer, or he would ignore me as if he did not hear anything. Maybe (he thinks of me only as a sister), because he is the youngest among six brothers, with no sisters.

(We don't communicate as often as before.) He would text me only once or twice a month. That makes me miss him more. I don't know if our friendship will end, or if things will still work between us. Should I forget him now, or should I wait for him to make things clear?

D.L.V.

Probably the reason you told him you were going abroad was the belief that "distance makes the heart grow fonder." However, there is another side to that: out of sight, out of mind. Also, by making him realize you can afford to take a six-month vacation in L.A. probably made him accept the fact that you are much better off financially than him, and it could have given him an inferiority complex. That speaks well of him. It means he is not a gold digger.

If in the past you were linked only by text messages and he never visited you at home, it may be time to tell him you are back in the Philippines. Buy some American-made chocolates and give them to him as *pasalubong*. Or you can give him an expensive ballpen, which he might use to write you letters instead.

As I have said before, friendship is the best soil to germinate the seed of love. If he wakes up one day to the realization that he loves you and that you are a wonderful girl, then he will start getting closer to you. Tell him that you also love him only after he professes his love for you. If you are meant for each other, things will work out fine.

Meantime, just live each day to the fullest, and never address him as *kuya* again because it will make him think that you see him as an old man, not a young attractive suitor. Good luck.

For taxi passengers

May I share this with your readers, so they will learn something from (my recent) experience? I came to Manila from the province. One day, I had to take a taxi to visit a relative in Tandang Sora. I am staying with a cousin in Malate. I gave the driver the street name, and he said, in Tagalog, (that I should tell him what route to take) because he was not familiar with the place. Since I did not also know, he crisscrossed many streets and the taxi meter registered P240 by the time we got there.

However, when my uncle brought me back (to Malate) in his car, the trip was much shorter.

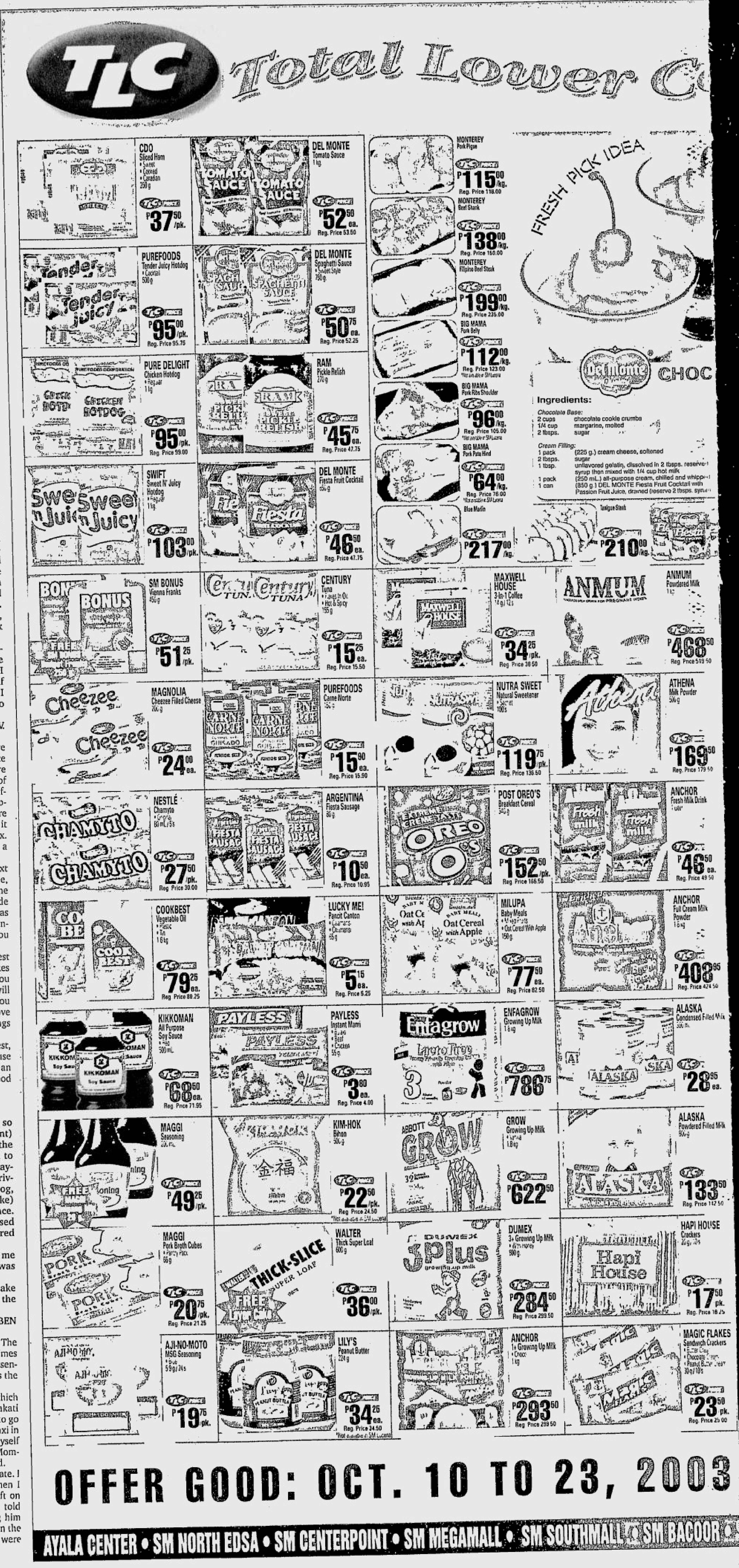
My advice is, before taking a taxi, make sure you know the route, just in case the driver asks you.

BEN

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. The same thing has happened to me several times in the past. When the driver is sure his passenger does not know the way, he then takes the longest way to collect a higher fare.

Another incident happened to me which will amuse you. I went shopping in Makati with two daughters years ago. I decided to go home ahead to prepare dinner, taking a taxi in front of Rustan's. I had just seated myself when one daughter rushed out to ask, "Mommy, do you have money?" Of course, I had.

I told the taxi driver to take me to Malate. I was busy sorting out my packages. When I looked out, I realized he had turned left on South Super Highway. I got angry and told him to stop, then I got off after paying him P10. You see, English is what we speak in the family, and the taxi driver thought we were *balikbayan*.



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KOALA Toilet Deodorizer 100g TLC PRICE P20.00 ea. Reg. Price 22.75
GOLDILOCKS Pop Corn 75g TLC PRICE P10.60 ea. Reg. Price 11.00 *Not available in SM Lucena
SUNKIST Instant Powdered Mix • Four Season • Lemonade 45g TLC PRICE P6.00 ea.
GOLDILOCKS Polvoron • Cashew • Cookies n' Cream TLC PRICE P69.60/pk. Reg. Price 74.50 *Not available in SM Lucena
ZEST-O Juice Drink • Dalandan • Calamansi PET 1.5 Liters TLC PRICE P27.00 ea. Reg. Price 27.75

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Is the Pope pro-GMO?

FOR A WHILE there, I was dumbfounded. The news report that the Vatican had endorsed GMOs sent me scurrying to contact people to find out their reactions.

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

I was hoping I got the news all wrong or the reporter did. For the Pope informing our President, during her visit to the Vatican recently, that producing genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or genetically engineered (GE) food was not a sin or immoral, was as good as putting his imprimatur to the whole technology.

The issue of GMOs is not just a matter of morals, though I can understand why it would be a significant consideration to the Vatican. There are, however, other matters attached to the agricultural process that make the issue more complicated—such matters as economics, freedom of choice and farmers' rights that never were problems until GMOs came into the picture.

So when the National Secretariat for Social Action or Nassa (the social action arm of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines) issued a statement this month denying that the Vatican endorsed GMO, there must have been a great big collective sigh of relief from environmentalists and concerned people all over the country. Reports before the statement was issued, which President Macapagal seemed to corroborate, showed the Vatican as consistently cautious in its pronouncements.

Complicating the issue

But every now and then, there would be reports indicating the Pope had taken a different view, leading people to believe something or some sectors are making the issue more complicated than it already is.

Nassa's concern over the matter of Papal endorsement of GMOs was brought to the attention of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace in Rome in July. According to Nassa, the head of that council noted "Nassa's arguments against GMOs (as) being anti-poor" were valid.

The council head requested Nassa to submit "scientific evidence that will substantiate those arguments." Nassa says it is doing just that, documenting, among others, farmers' experiences with Bt corn. A Nassa representative is now in the Vatican to meet with the council head on the issue.

CBCP's Nassa brings question of Vatican's alleged endorsement to pontifical council

But the matter of who has to prove what is a little bothersome. It seems to have given rise to a sub-issue in the controversy. Why does Nassa have to prove its arguments? Shouldn't the proponents do that to convince everyone that what they are offering is really what the world needs—a secure food supply that is also safe for humans and animals? Shouldn't the burden of proof lie on those who want the technology accepted and used?

The view from this corner has always been "wait and see." Let's not close the book on GMOs and their proponents. Let's wait until we can all be assured that the food being grown using that technology is safe to eat, and that the system of planting and producing it is just and equitable to all.

Legal action?

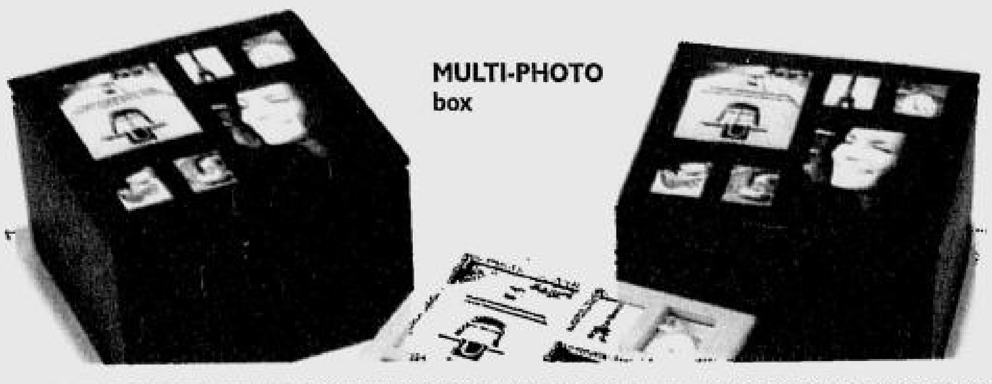
Among those we consulted regarding the matter was Antonio Oposa, who looks at this development through the eyes of an environmental lawyer. He says if the way matters are going is not stopped or corrected, opponents may have to take legal action. It may need, he says, "judicial resolution... to test the international principle known as the 'precautionary principle.'"

In simple terms, he means, "Let us not jump headlong into the river until we are sure how deep it is. In like manner, let us not tamper too much with the laws of nature unless we know exactly what we are doing." He quotes a man in high office as saying, "Leave nature alone. She knows her business better than we do."

Oposa adds, "...if our courts should adopt the precautionary principle in testing the government policy on GMOs, the burden of proof will be reversed. Instead of the opponents trying to prove that GMOS are unsafe, it is the burden of the government, particularly of this administration, to prove that it is safe."

Taking this into consideration, perhaps what the anti-GMO movement (or the wait-and-see sector) needs is a lawyer or lawyers committed enough to the cause to fight for it, all the way to the Supreme Court, if necessary. Oposa is sure the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)-National Environmental Action Team and other scientific and non-government organizations will be ready to provide technical and some logistical support.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



MULTI-PHOTO box

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AFTER HOURS
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  - Wednesdays **The Divas**
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- Wednesdays **Retrospect**
- Thursdays **Figure 8**
- Fridays **Twisted Pair**
- Saturdays **Flintstones and the Gang**

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THE BASEMENT
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- Mondays **Niche**
- Tuesdays **The Rage Band**
- Wednesdays **PIDO Take One/ Passage**
- Thursdays **Time and a Half**
- Fridays **Chikas**
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8:30 pm onwards
Call 421-2267

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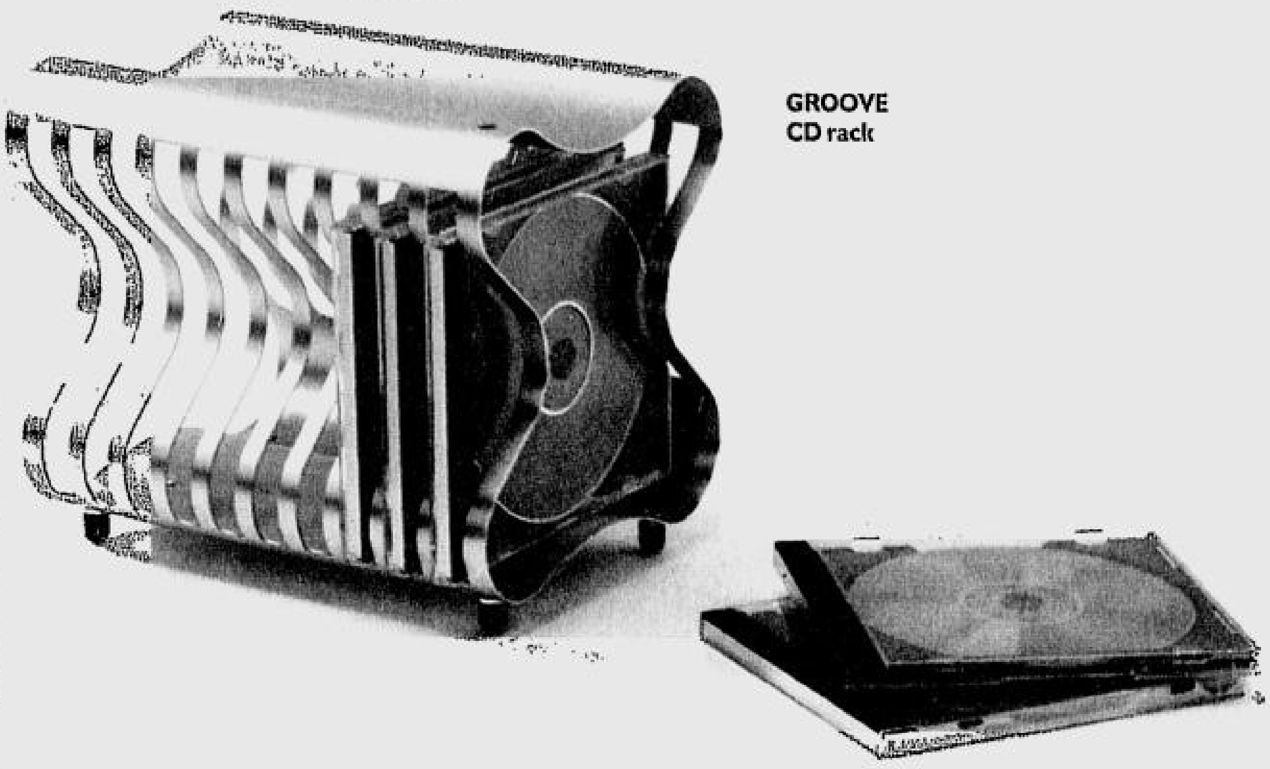


GROOVE CD rack

Gadgets for easy living

MAKE ROOM gives you eight more reasons to enjoy staying home.

Your den can be an intelligent workspace with dependable memory and powerful organizing capabilities even without a state-of-the-art computer. The Stretch Memo Board, mounted or easeled with a sturdy wooden backing, has elastic lacing to hold hand-written agendas (and cheesy love notes).

With the self-draining Compact Dish Rack, you don't have to worry about dropping plates while drying them. Lightweight and compact, the rack could also hold spoons, forks and others. The rack can be easily stored by folding it in half.

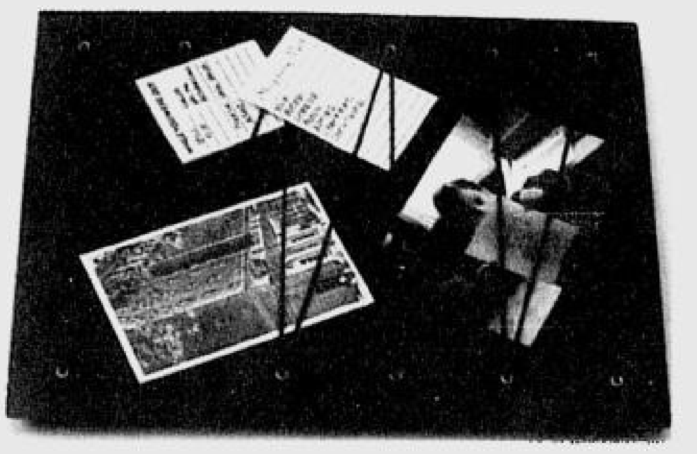
Bathing can be so much more fun with either the Cello Soap Pump of high-fired ceramics or the Vapor Tumbler and Soap Pump.

The Teardrop Paper Towel Holder will keep handy paper towels for wiping dirt, grime, spills and splatter.

Organize your "memories" of important occasions with the Multi-Photo Box that can hold up to six pictures. It has a luxuriously lacquered wood finish and glass fittings.

Make Room's stackable aluminum Groove CD Rack lets you organize your music collection in the best way possible.

Owned and operated by Stores Specialists, Inc., Make Room is located at the Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center.



STRETCH memo board

Weekend session with makeup artists

VISIT any of the Lancôme counters at Rustan's Makati, Rustan's Shangri-La, and Rustan's Alabang Town Center this weekend and have a girl-bonding session with the best makeup artists from Lancôme.

GOINGS ON

WORKSHOP. The Asian Institute of Life Transformation will hold a training workshop on basic counseling on Oct. 18 and 25 and Nov. 8 and 15, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Dr. Randy Dellosa and Dr. Violeta Bautista will conduct the workshop. Call 4156529/4157964/ 7314016.

REMEDIAL CLASS. Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center will have a series of remedial English study groups for professionals and college students in the beginners, intermediate and advanced levels. They'll be held beginning Oct. 18. A study group for children aged 7-13 is also set on the same day. It will also hold a Business Writing study group for professionals and college students on Oct. 19 and 26, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Call 8426665/8093050/ 0917-6297718.

PROMO. Heroes at the Mall will be showcased on Oct. 11-19 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Call 6337851.

BAZAAR. Venture 7 will hold three bazaars at Hotel InterContinental on Oct. 12, Nov. 23 and Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Call 8103307/3723083 to 84.

FORUM. The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists(PSLIS) will have a forum on "Bring Out the Best in You: Forum on Personality Enhancement" on Oct. 28 at 3 SEC Social Hall, 12th floor, SEC Bldg., Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Call 7241994/5279672/ 9321295/7910021/ (0917)8266929/(0916)7120341.

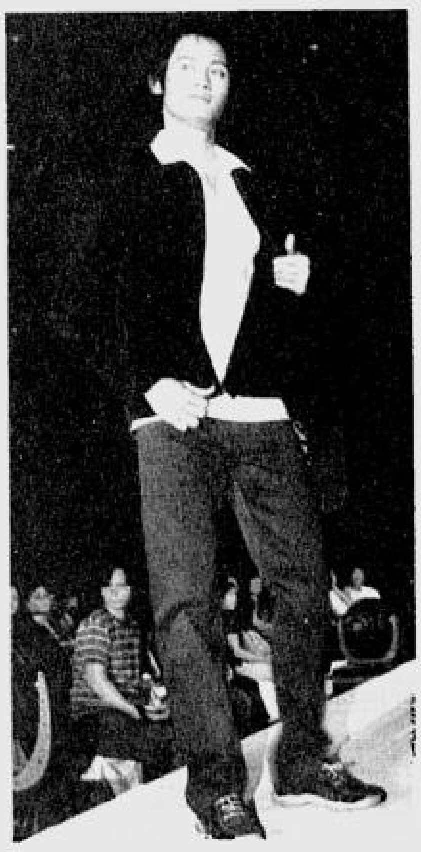
CONTEST. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold an on-the-spot photo tilt in Taal, Batangas on Oct. 11. Deadline of submission of entries is on Oct. 25, 2 p.m., at FPPF chamber, Fort Santiago. Call 8137420/8435341.

CONFERENCE. Business One Inc. and Powerbooks Specialty Store will present Career Management for Tomorrow's Business conference on Oct. 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Call 6315052.

BAZAAR. MenchieMabantaBazaars@Global City is ongoing until Oct. 31 at MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio Global City. Call 4371009/4389974/6479059/8154721.

ENTERTAINMENT. Shangri-La Plaza Mall's Streetscape will feature top live bands on Oct. 17 and 18, 9 p.m. On Oct. 25, a Halloween party will be held at 8 p.m.

Call 6361225.



SHANGRI-LA Plaza Mall recently presented Chic and Savvy, a pre-holiday fashion show at Grand Atrium directed by Jackie Aquino.

Sale offers up to 70-percent discounts on high-end brands

FROM Oct. 15-19, the Power Plant Mall at Rockwell, in support of the Department of Tourism's Wow Philippines Shopping Fiesta 2003, opens its doors to shoppers with up to 70 percent off on favorite brands such as Marlboro Classics, Traffic, Make Room, La Pagayo, Bally, CK Underwear, DKNY, Kenneth Cole, Bass, Tyler, Quiksilver, Orange Juice, Wink, Marithe & Francois Girbaud, Sari-Sari, Diesel, Salvatore Ferragamo and Anne Klein New York.

On Oct. 15-24, catch Home and Beyond's "Isle of the Philippines Handicrafts Fair" at the North Court of Power Plant Mall.

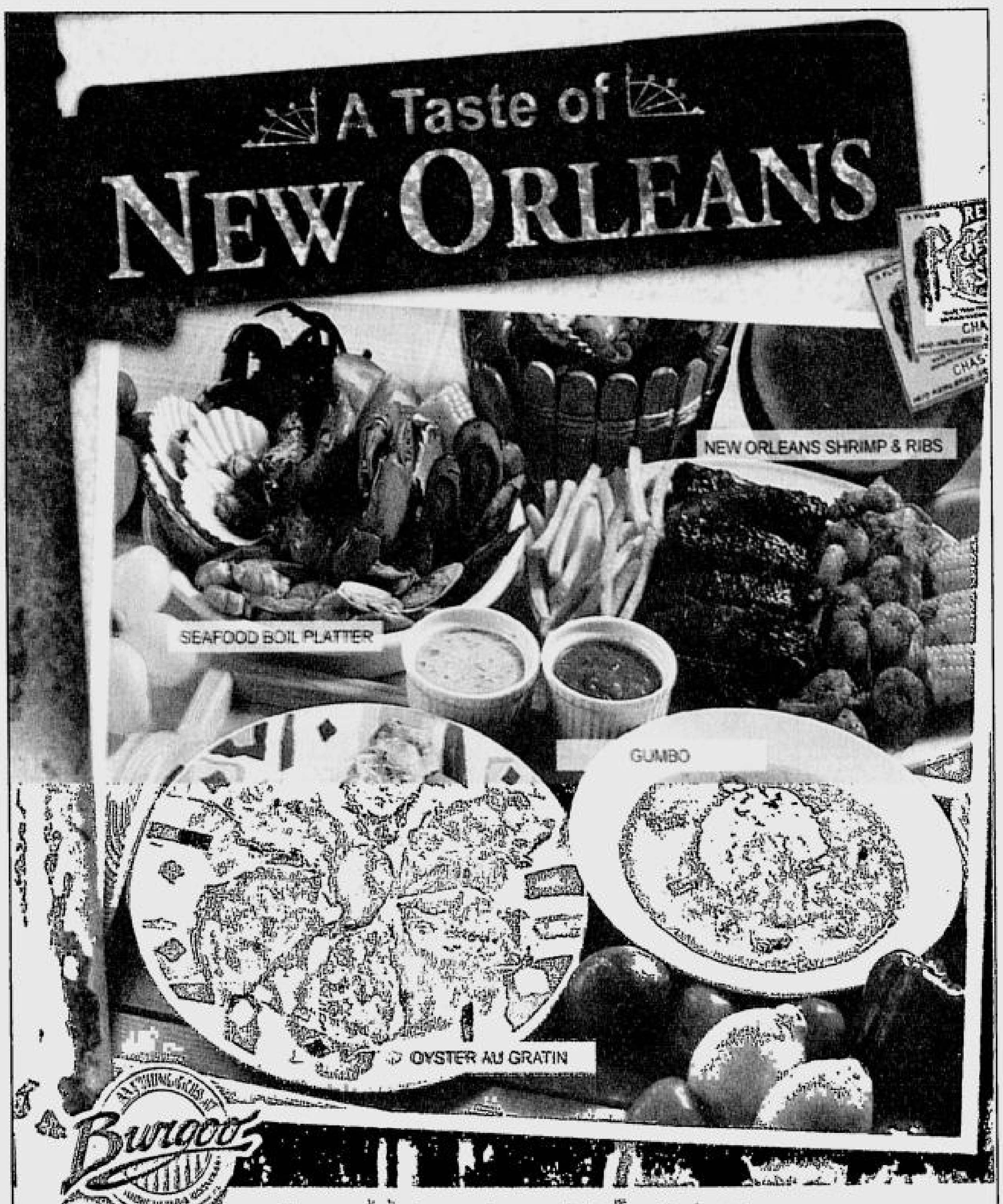
The exhibit showcases finely crafted furniture like dining sets, table and chairs carved out of *molave*, acacia and pinewood by the best carvers and woodcraft experts from Bicol, Pampanga, Paete and Abra.

It also features an exquisite collection of "runo" or bamboo stick furnishings, a finely crafted rocking chair patterned after the classic *calesa*, and an array of genuine handmade bags, *parols*, papier-mâché, paintings and souvenir items.

Mall patrons are also in for a treat from Oct. 15-19 with a jewelry exhibit organized by the world-renowned Vicenza Group, an elite circle of local jewelry manufacturers who regularly participate in the Fiera di Vicenza jewelry trade fair in Italy.

Two of the circle's members, Sanara Silver and 7 Castles, will feature a sterling silver collection, while Mercelles, New Life Jewelry, Ilios Jewelers, and Jewelmer International will open a treasure trove of gold, diamonds and colored stones for public viewing.

A striking 18-carat gold necklace adorned with precious stones will be Mercelles' centerpiece attraction.



For reservations, please visit or call us at:

310 Tomas Morato Ext., South Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: 927-7424 • 927-7384 • 927-7396 (telefax)

3rd Level Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 898-1815 to 17

2nd Level The Podium, ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
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Present this coupon for a FREE bottomless Lipton Ice Tea.

IFESTYLE

Trend Spotting

The piña struts its

Top designers give this gossamer fabric from the South their own spin

DENNIS Lustico

By Cheche V. Moral

CAN the much-prized piña fabric transcend its formal and costume-y character without losing its Old-World elegance? Can it go beyond severe *barongs* and *ternos* and appeal to the young fashionista set?

"Piña Fashionista," a fashion show staged at the Intramuros recently by the province of Aklan, led by Gov. Florencio Miraflores, provided promising answers, from visions of a fabulous debutante's ball gown down to the basic white shirt.

The visual delights were enough to ease the temper of the audience irate over the two-hour delay. Apparently because of a high-profile politician's capricious bidding, hundreds of guests were made to wait and bear the evening heat at the San Ignacio ruins.

But the show didn't disappoint.

PIÑA/ F3

EFREN Ocampo

PHOTOS: RUDY ESPERAS

Real People. True Stories.

"My skin used to be so dry, you could draw a line across it. But after Imedeen, there's no more dryness, just compliments!"

Dr. Daisy Lim-Camitan,
41, Dermatologist &
Clinic owner, Dermgem

As someone whose job is to make others look good, Dr. Daisy knows she has to look good herself. "Patients come to me to look younger. I myself should be the best proof that you don't have to look your age."

With Imedeen, Dr. Daisy has achieved just that. As skin retains its essential moisture, dryness is reduced; in its place you may notice skin more evenly toned, softer and more elastic. "I get a lot of compliments -- people say I look good for my age."

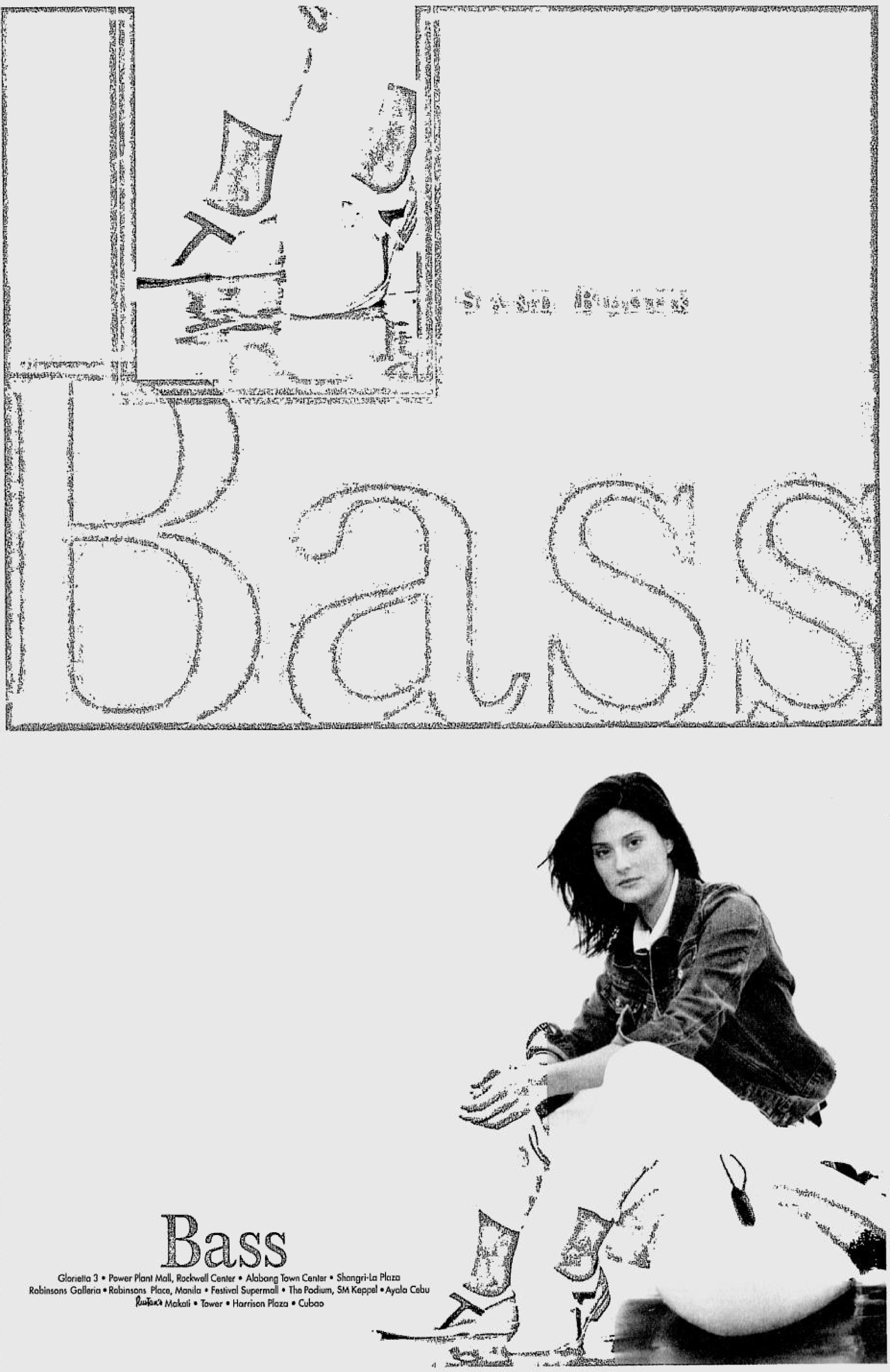
Imedeen is the skin care tablet that helps nourish and revitalize the inner layer of the skin where ageing begins.

"I always tell my patients, 'To look beautiful, one must feel beautiful inside.' Seeing how young I look gives my spirit a different kind of lift. Imedeen does wonders not just for outer beauty, but inner beauty as well. And that's something no facelift can give you."

Ultrasound images of the skin structure: denser structure implies better support and ability to hold moisture

Clinically Proven

The Skin Care Tablet



Bass

Glorietta 3 • Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center • Alabang Town Center • Shangri-La Plaza
Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place, Manila • Festival Supermall • The Podium, SM Keppel • Ayala Cebu
Rustan's Makati • Tower • Harrison Plaza • Cubao

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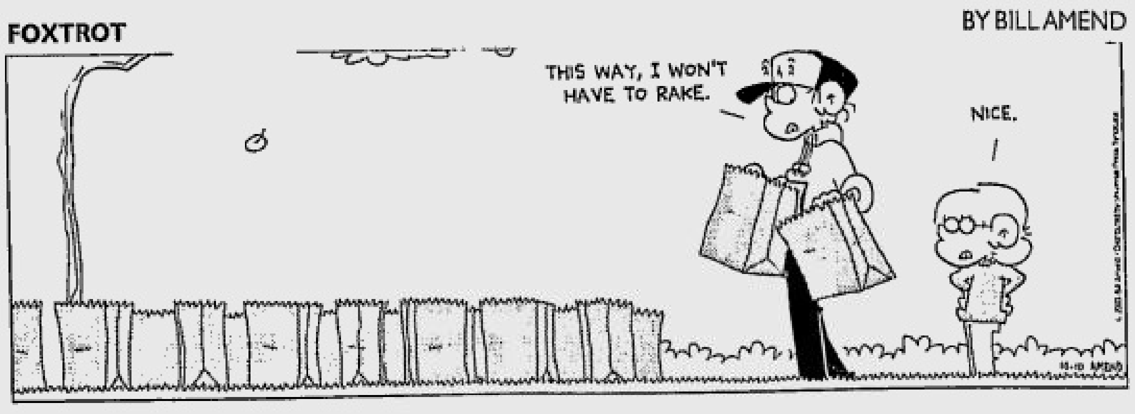
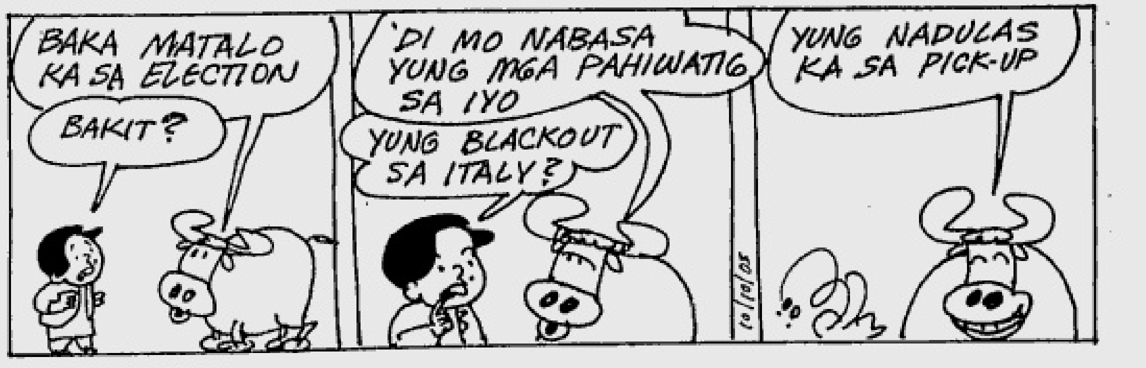
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2003

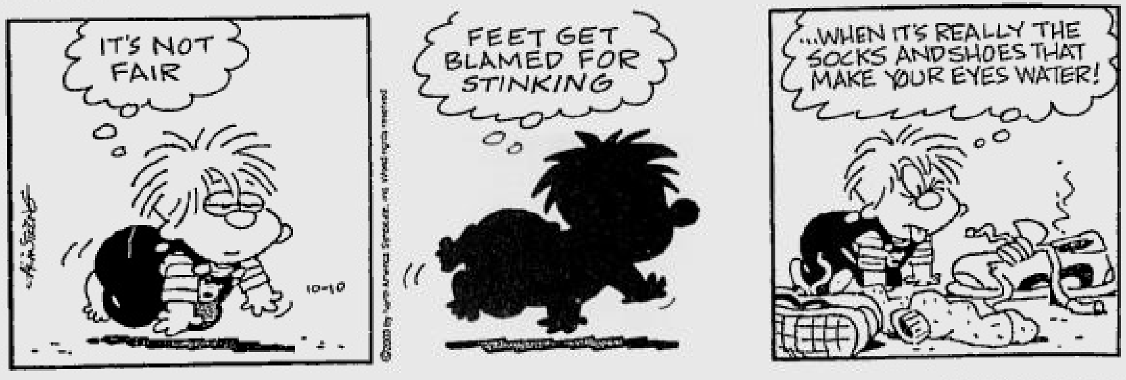
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


THIS WAY, I WON'T HAVE TO RAKE.
NICE.

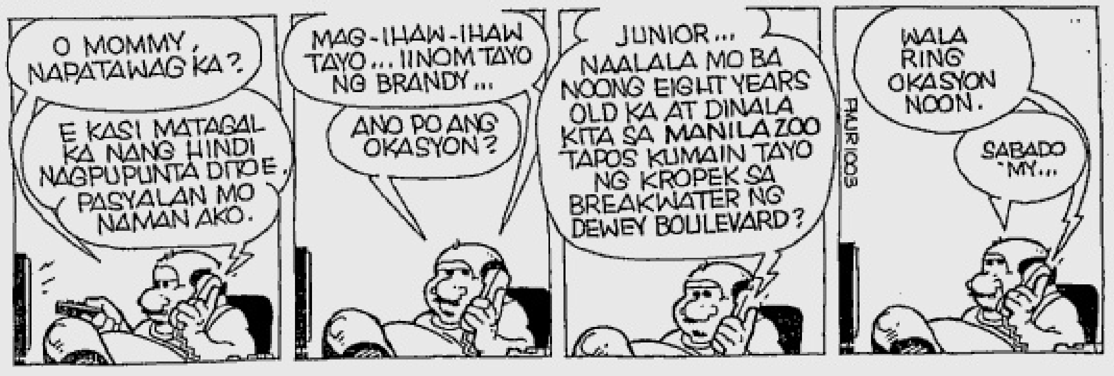
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


BAKA MATALO KA SA ELECTION
BAKIT?
'DI MO NABASA YUNG MGA PAHIWATIG SA IYO
YUNG BLACKOUT SA ITALY?
YUNG NADULAS KA SA PICK-UP

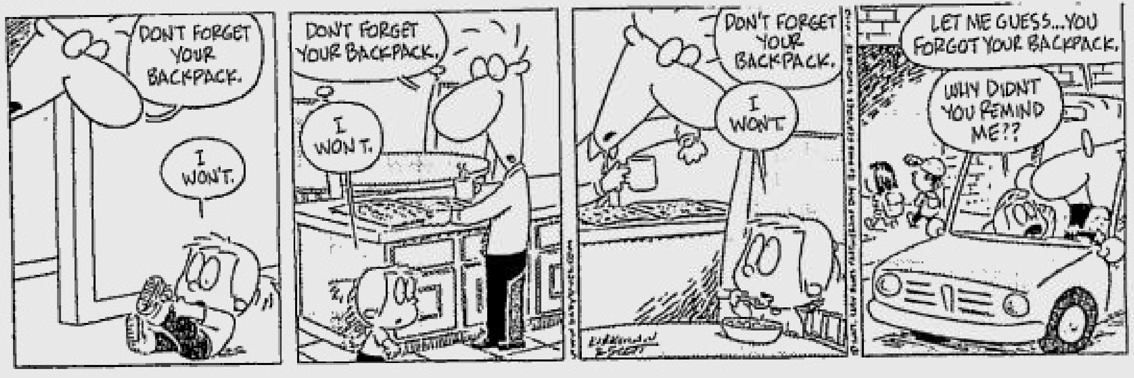
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


IT'S NOT FAIR
FEET GET BLAMED FOR STINKING
...WHEN IT'S REALLY THE SOCKS AND SHOES THAT MAKE YOUR EYES WATER!
10-10

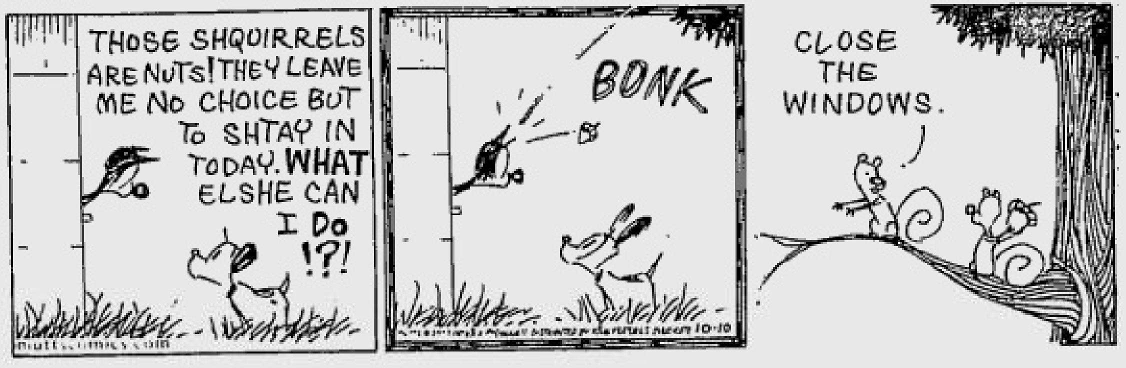
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


O MOMMY, NAPATAWAG KA?
E KASI MATAGAL KA NANG HINDI NAGPUPUNTA DITO E. PASYALAN MO NAMAN AKO.
MAG-IHAW-IHAW TAYO... IINOM TAYO NG BRANDY...
ANO PO ANG OKASYON?
JUNIOR... NAALALA MO BA NOONG EIGHT YEARS OLD KA AT DINALA KITA SA MANILA ZOO TAPOS KUMAIN TAYO NG KROPEK SA BREAKWATER NG DEWEY BOULEVARD?
WALA RING OKASYON NOON.
SABADO 'MY...

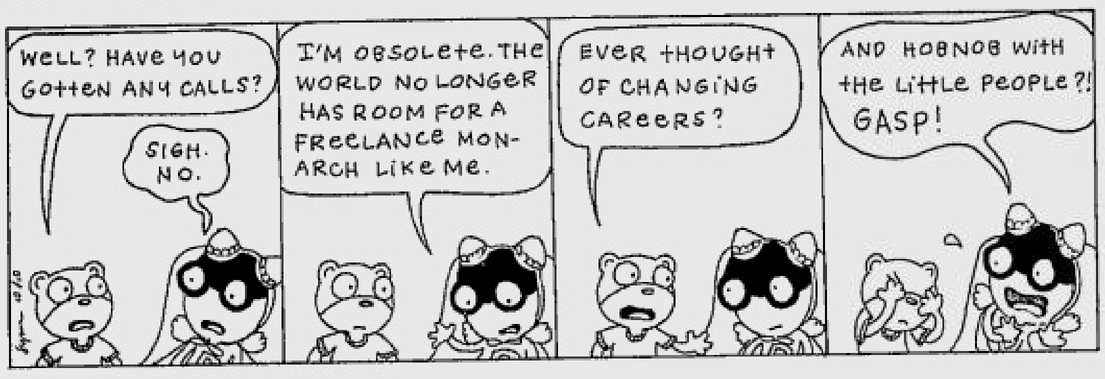
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


DON'T FORGET YOUR BACKPACK.
I WON'T.
DON'T FORGET YOUR BACKPACK.
I WON'T.
DON'T FORGET YOUR BACKPACK.
I WON'T.
LET ME GUESS... YOU FORGOT YOUR BACKPACK.
WHY DIDN'T YOU REMIND ME??

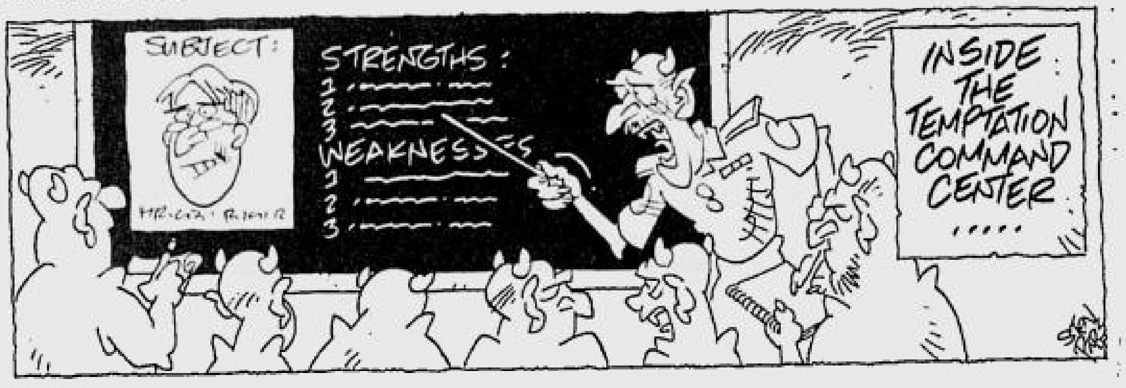
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


THOSE SHQUIRRELS ARE NUTS! THEY LEAVE ME NO CHOICE BUT TO SHTAY IN TODAY. WHAT ELSHE CAN I DO !?!
BONK
CLOSE THE WINDOWS.
mutts comics.com
10-10

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELL? HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANY CALLS?
SIGH. NO.
I'M OBSOLETE. THE WORLD NO LONGER HAS ROOM FOR A FREELANCE MON-ARCH LIKE ME.
EVER THOUGHT OF CHANGING CAREERS?
AND HOBNOB WITH THE LITTLE PEOPLE?! GASP!

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SUBJECT:
STRENGTHS:
1
2
3
WEAKNESSES
1
2
3
INSIDE THE TEMPTATION COMMAND CENTER .....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intelligent and insightful. You have a good financial sense of things. You know how to create comfort and stability in your life. You are an excellent problem-solver. People love you because you are generous and affectionate. Increased solitude is likely this year because you have something important to learn.

Birthdate of: Helen Hayes, actress; Dale Earnhardt Jr., race-car driver; Thelonius Monk, jazz musician.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You are charming and rather sexy today. Because you have lots of energy, you're in a teasing, playful mood. Don't be afraid to flash your dazzle; today's Full Moon is in your sign.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a great day to enjoy friends. Conferences, group activities and any kind of gathering will be energetic, fun and productive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today's Full Moon gives extra energy to entertaining activities and romantic situations. You find it easy to impress important people, especially bosses. (You clever wordsmith!)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Since the Moon is your ruler, you feel every Full Moon. Today it is challenging to meet the demands of both career and home. Take it easy.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Be extra-careful when driving, walking, jogging and cycling. Today's Full Moon could make you hasty. Take your time so that you will avoid mishaps and accidents.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a powerful financial day for you. You can close deals and negotiate new ones. Shopping can be especially favorable. You feel confident about what you're doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Although today's Full Moon opposes your sign, you nevertheless are empowered when it comes to financial deals and anything having to do with your job. Go after what you want.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a wonderful day to party, flirt, enjoy the arts or work with children. You find it easy to express your creative talents now. Enjoy show business and the entertainment world.

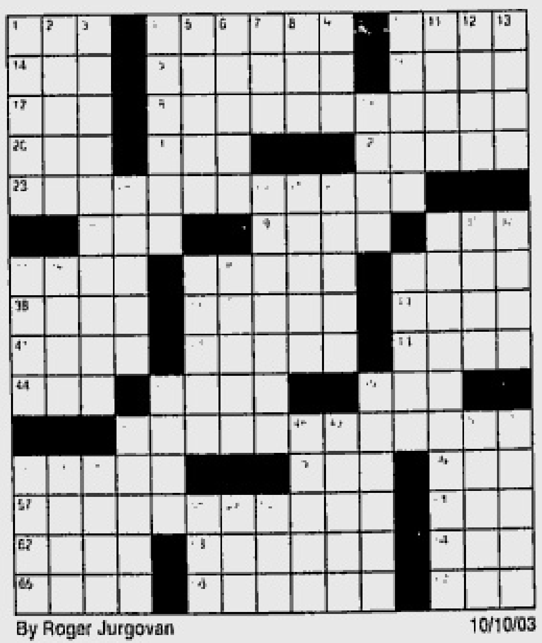
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Friends and groups could help you improve your home scene today. Perhaps this assistance favors a family member. Either way, others want to help you now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You find it easy to persuade, sell, teach, write and communicate to groups and friends today. You're on top of your game. Expect to have to make choices between home and career.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Because of increased authority or responsibilities, you might have to make important financial decisions today. Everything having to do with publishing and higher education interests you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Plans for travel are exciting! Think carefully about how to best use the resources of others now. Use caution in disputes over estates, wills, inheritances and shared possessions.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

10/10/03

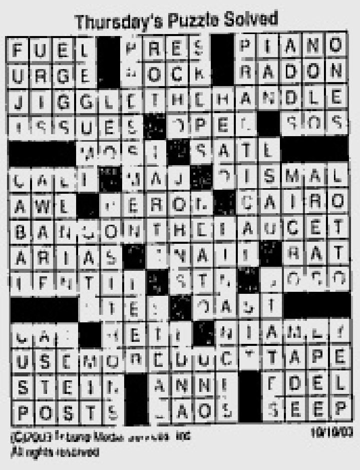
ACROSS

1 Mil. rank
4 Angel of the first order
10 Now hear __!
14 First of a Latin trio
15 Loath
16 Nod, to Eden
17 Fed. medical complex
18 King of Torts
20 Wayside lodge
21 Vent opener?
22 Be admitted
23 High Priest of Country Music
28 Charged particle
29 Nights before
30 Mel of the Polo Grounds
33 Stout or bock
35 Pine-sap product
37 Biblical prophet
38 Husband of a countess
39 Behaved
40 Pinza of "South Pacific"
41 Large amount
42 Desiderata
43 Cup brims
44 Your, of yore
45 Wound mark
46 Flying buzzer
47 Prince of Darkness
52 Arose
55 Bobby of hockey
56 Chinese chairman
57 King of Hi De Ho
61 __ in the bag!
62 Berserk
63 Not enthusiastic about
64 Golf gadget
65 Seventh letters
66 Remove restrictions
67 "Another 48 _

DOWN

1 Frenzied
2 Protein acid
3 Prince of Wails
4 Far Eastern boat
5 __ once in a while
6 Rent once more
7 U.S. Bible
8 Trident-shaped letter
9 Farm layer
10 Miniscule
11 Cease
12 Key
13 The slammer
19 Wagers
24 Planet
25 Cowboy movie
26 Like many campus halls
27 Is inclined
30 Wizard of Oz
31 Stumble
32 New Mexican art colony
33 Highest quality
34 To __ his own
35 South Fork or Ponderosa
36 Great quantity
37 Moray catcher
45 Pop
46 Heavy particle
47 Cordero and Arcaro
48 Dismal cries
49 Wooden box
50 Horse opera
51 Sensory organs
52 Heroin
53 Mild
54 Orchestra member
58 Not-a-full-load letters
59 Soho restroom
60 Tic-tac-toe winner

Thursday's Puzzle Solved



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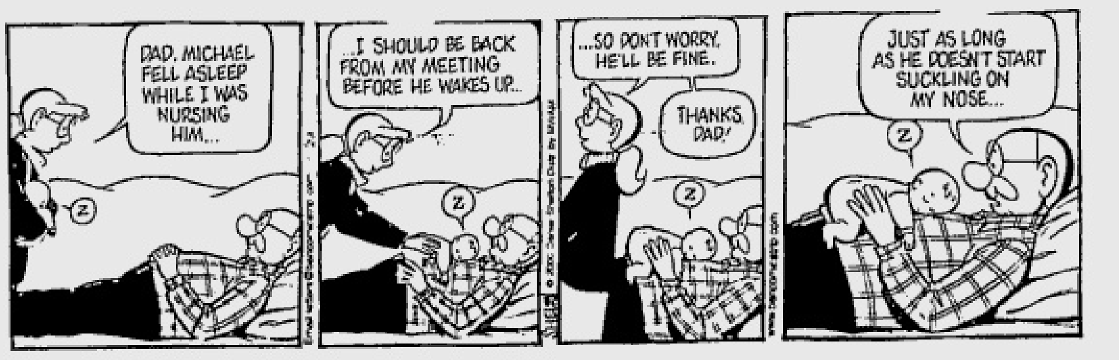
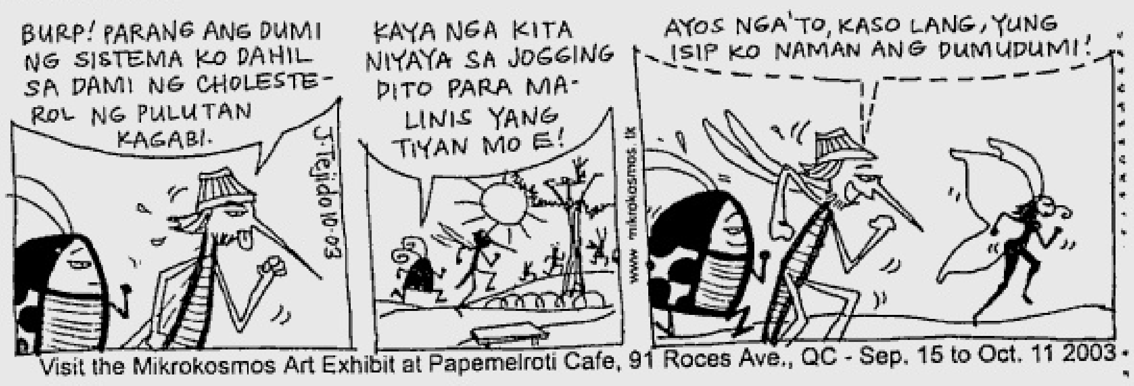
10/10/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

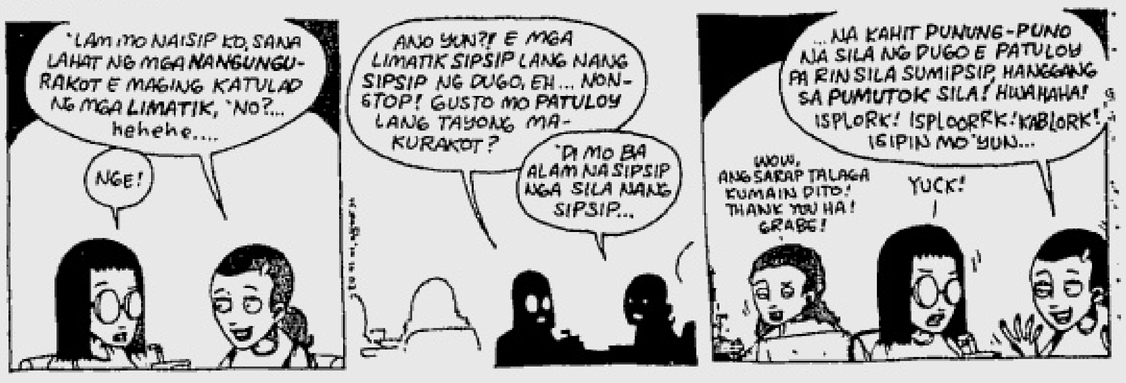

DAD, MICHAEL FELL ASLEEP WHILE I WAS NURSING HIM...
...I SHOULD BE BACK FROM MY MEETING BEFORE HE WAKES UP...
...SO DON'T WORRY. HE'LL BE FINE.
THANKS, DAD!
JUST AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T START SUCKLING ON MY NOSE...

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

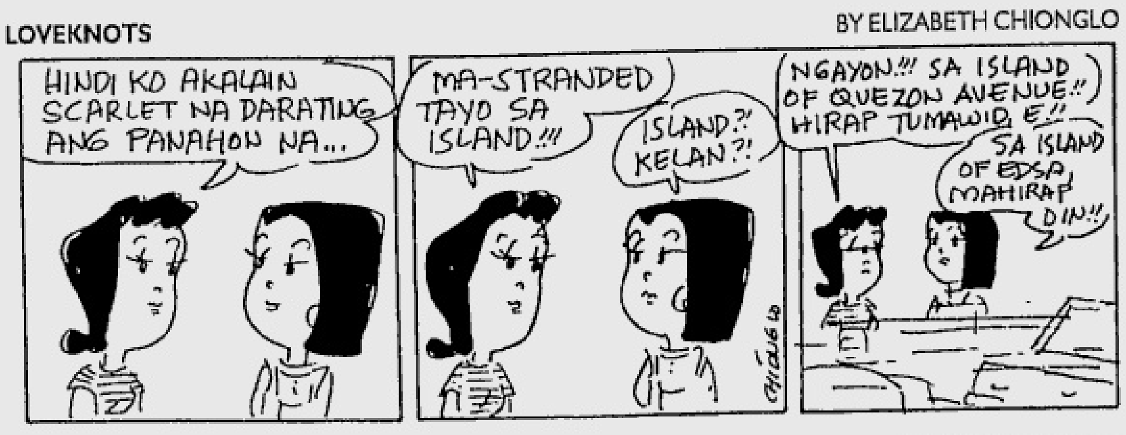

BURP! PARANG ANG DUMI NG SISTEMA KO DAHIL SA DAMI NG CHOLESTEROL NG PULUTAN KAGABI.
J.Tejido 10-03
KAYA NGA KITA NIYAYA SA JOGGING DITO PARA MALINIS YANG TIYAN MO E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
AYOS NGA'TO, KASO LANG, YUNG ISIP KO NAMAN ANG DUMUDUMI!

Visit the Mikrokosmos Art Exhibit at Papemelroti Cafe, 91 Roces Ave., QC - Sep. 15 to Oct. 11 2003

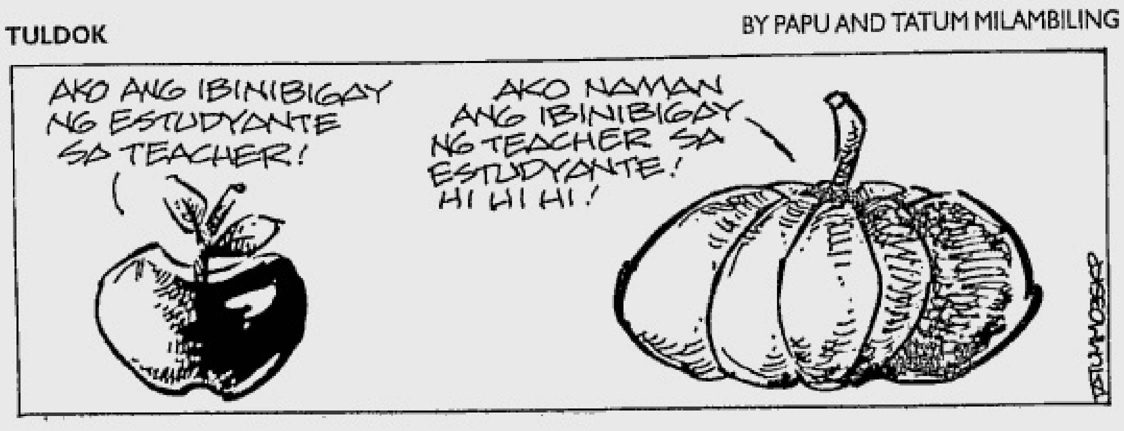
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


'LAM MO NAISIP KO, SANA LAHAT NG MGA NANGUNGURAKOT E MAGING KATULAD NG MGA LIMATIK, 'NO?... hehehe....
NGE!
ANO YUN?! E MGA LIMATIK SIPSIP LANG NANG SIPSIP NG DUGO, EH... NON-STOP! GUSTO MO PATULOY LANG TAYONG MAKURAKOT?
'DI MO BA ALAM NA SIPSIP NGA SILA NANG SIPSIP...
...NA KAHIT PUNUNG-PUNO NA SILA NG DUGO E PATULOY PA RIN SILA SUMIPSIP, HANGGANG SA PUMUTOK SILA! HWAHAHA! ISPLORK! ISPLOORRK! KABLORK! ISIPIN MO 'YUN...
WOW, ANG SARAP TALAGA KUMAIN DITO! THANK YOU HA! GRABE!
YUCK!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HINDI KO AKALAIN SCARLET NA DARATING ANG PANAHON NA...
MA-STRANDED TAYO SA ISLAND!!!
ISLAND?! KELAN?!
NGAYON!!! SA ISLAND OF QUEZON AVENUE!! HIRAP TUMAWID, E!!
SA ISLAND OF EDSA, MAHIRAP DIN!!

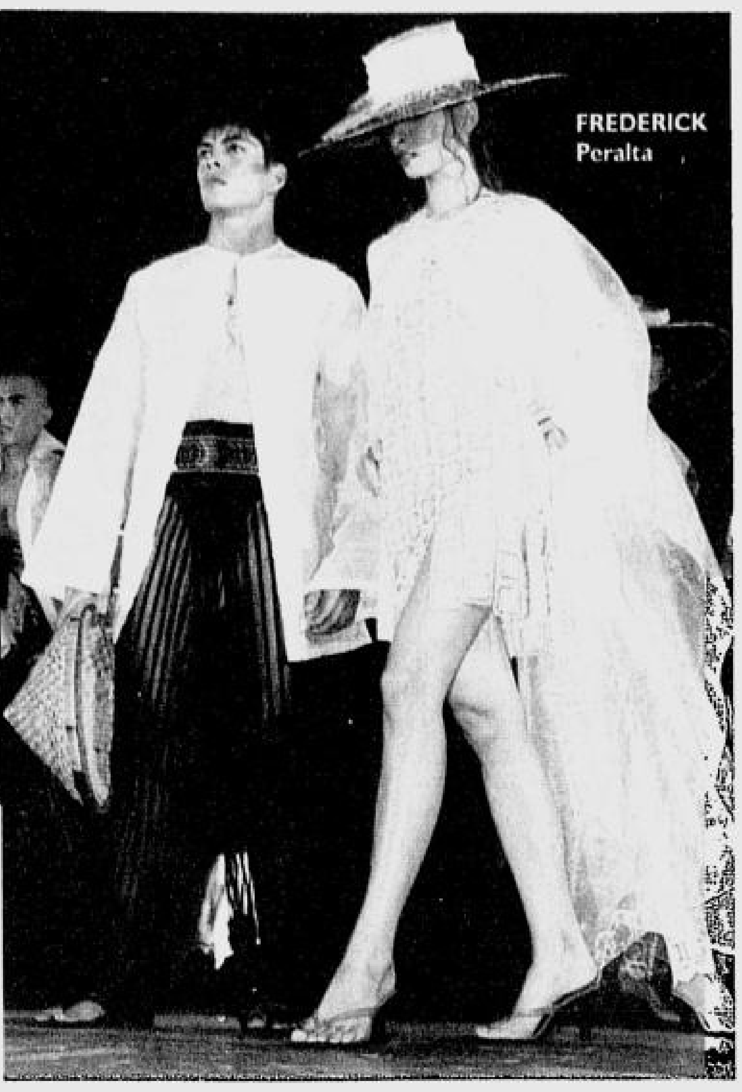
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

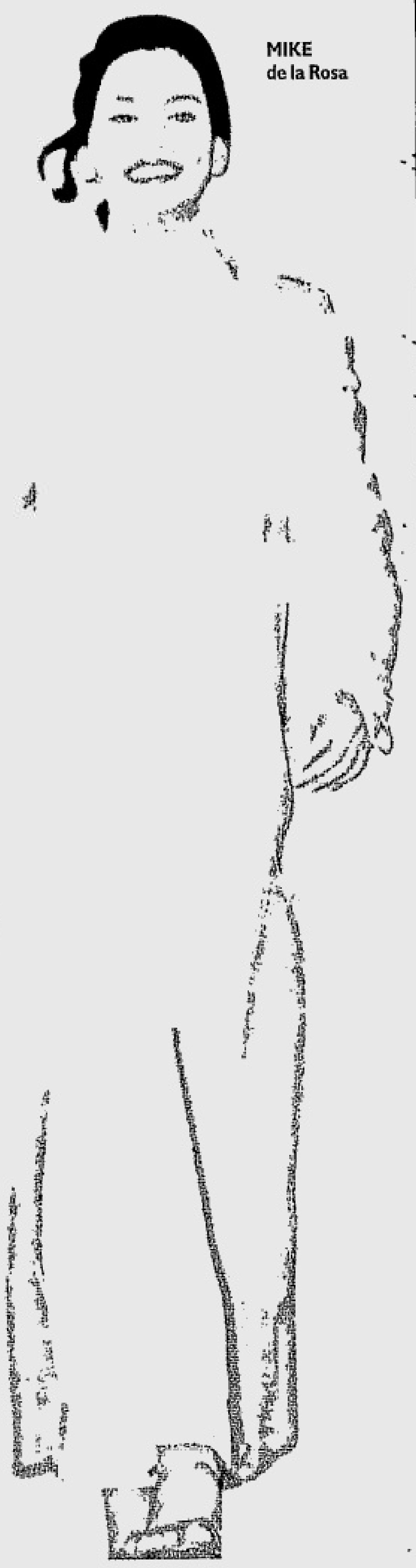

AKO ANG IBINIBIGAY NG ESTUDYANTE SA TEACHER!
AKO NAMAN ANG IBINIBIGAY NG TEACHER SA ESTUDYANTE! HI HI HI!

MEL Meer for Bergamo

ARMANDO Giron

BARGE Ramos

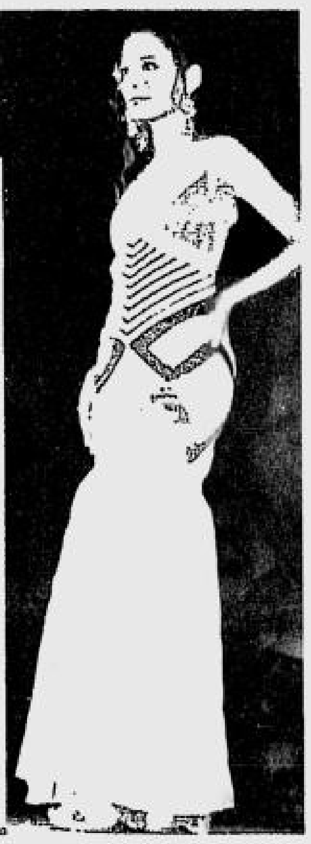

FREDERICK Peralta


MIKE de la Rosa

RENEE Salud

The struts its

LARRY Espinosa


DENNIS Lustico

LARRY Espinosa

MARDEN Iglesias

From page F1

With piña fabric provided by the Aklan Piña Manufacturers and Traders Association, 10 of Metro Manila's more popular designers came up with their own unique take on the delicate fabric.

Promise of romance

With the image of Boracay's famous sunset promising romance, Marden Iglesias opened the show with a bridal collection.

The bridal frocks were loose and flowing and accented with handmade piña flowers in keeping with the tropical setting. The designer acquiesced to some light beading to reflect the sparkle of Boracay waters. A paneled skirt paid homage to the buntings that adorn the island. Silk satin scarves provided a youthful twist to the *barongs*.

Given only a week to prepare for the show, ready-to-wear meisters Efren Ocampo and Mike de la Rosa showed only two pieces each, leaving the audience longing for more of their takes on the basic white shirt.

Cut close to the body, Ocampo's pin-tucked version was subtly sexy. De la Rosa opted for more pomp in his chic ruffled Victorian design with ruched sleeves.

Bold geometric color blocks characterized Dennis Lustico's evening wear. The young designer banished the common notion that the gossamer piña is mere old-folk frock. But he showed only two pieces.

Larry Espinosa wowed the crowd with his splendid debutante's gown. He piled layers upon layers of dyed hot fuchsia piña to come up with what can only be described as shabby-chic ball skirt. He wove silk strips of fabric in various hues of pink to create the basket-weave-inspired strapless top.

Espinosa's only other creation was a stunning bridal gown. The top mimicked woven rattan, while swirls of distressed piña made up the skirt.

Homage to Boracay

As homage to Aklan's famous island resort, Frederick Peralta whipped up a slew of dressy resort wear that featured light opera coats with gold inlays. He crafted tiny hanky tops, and minis and hot pants with peek-a-boo heavy lace slashed at the hem to reveal more skin.

Concluding the evening's show, Peralta did away with the dressy *barong* and opted for the younger and more casual shirt for the men. "It's more relaxed but still very masculine," he said. His male models strutted in transparent tulle pants, with silk brocade obi-like corsets underneath unbuttoned shirts.

"A piña shirt can even go well with denims," Peralta noted, affirming the handloom fabric's wearability. He refuted ideas that the fabric is high maintenance. "It's hand washable," he said. "In fact, treating it with chemicals [through dry cleaning] would only make it more brittle."

Iglesias, meanwhile, is hoping for a better technique to create a tighter piña weave. "Right now, the piña is too delicate," which can limit its potential, he said.

He added that with a width of 13 inches, the fabric is also too narrow. "Maybe these are factors we should also look into," he said.

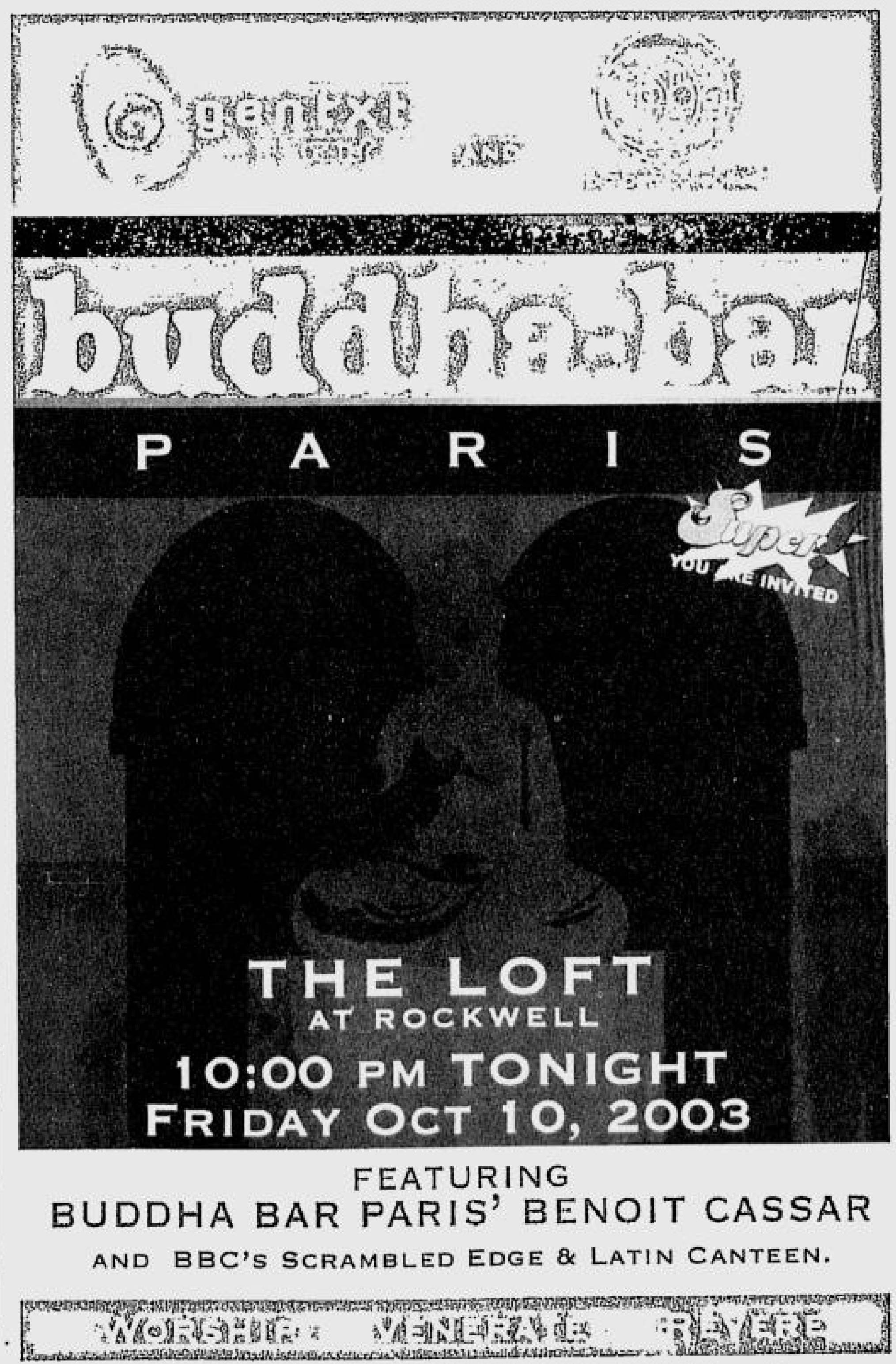
Peralta lamented the high cost of the fabric, which he said makes it difficult to push even among his clients. "We hope we can help develop the industry [so the fabric becomes more affordable]," he said. "We have very good piña silk and it's a pity that we can't push it."

Espinosa echoed this sentiment. Showing the versatility of the piña will convince more to opt for its use, he said. "We keep importing fabrics and that's not helping our economy. It's time we make use of our local materials."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

FIL-CANADIAN STYLIST SHOWS LATEST TRENDS

Schwarzkopf's Autumn/Winter 2003 Essential Looks Trend Collection will feature Canada's 2001 Hairstylist of the Year Reynaldo Sopoco at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 14 at Music Museum. Sopoco will present his versions of the latest Essential Looks—Japanese, Sixties, New Wave, Modern Wave and Biker Chic. He will also conduct the Essential Looks Trend Seminar on Oct. 15 and the Creative Cutting Workshops on Oct. 16-17 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Call 7268507 to 08 for information on tickets to Essential Looks, Trend Seminar and Creative Cutting Workshop.



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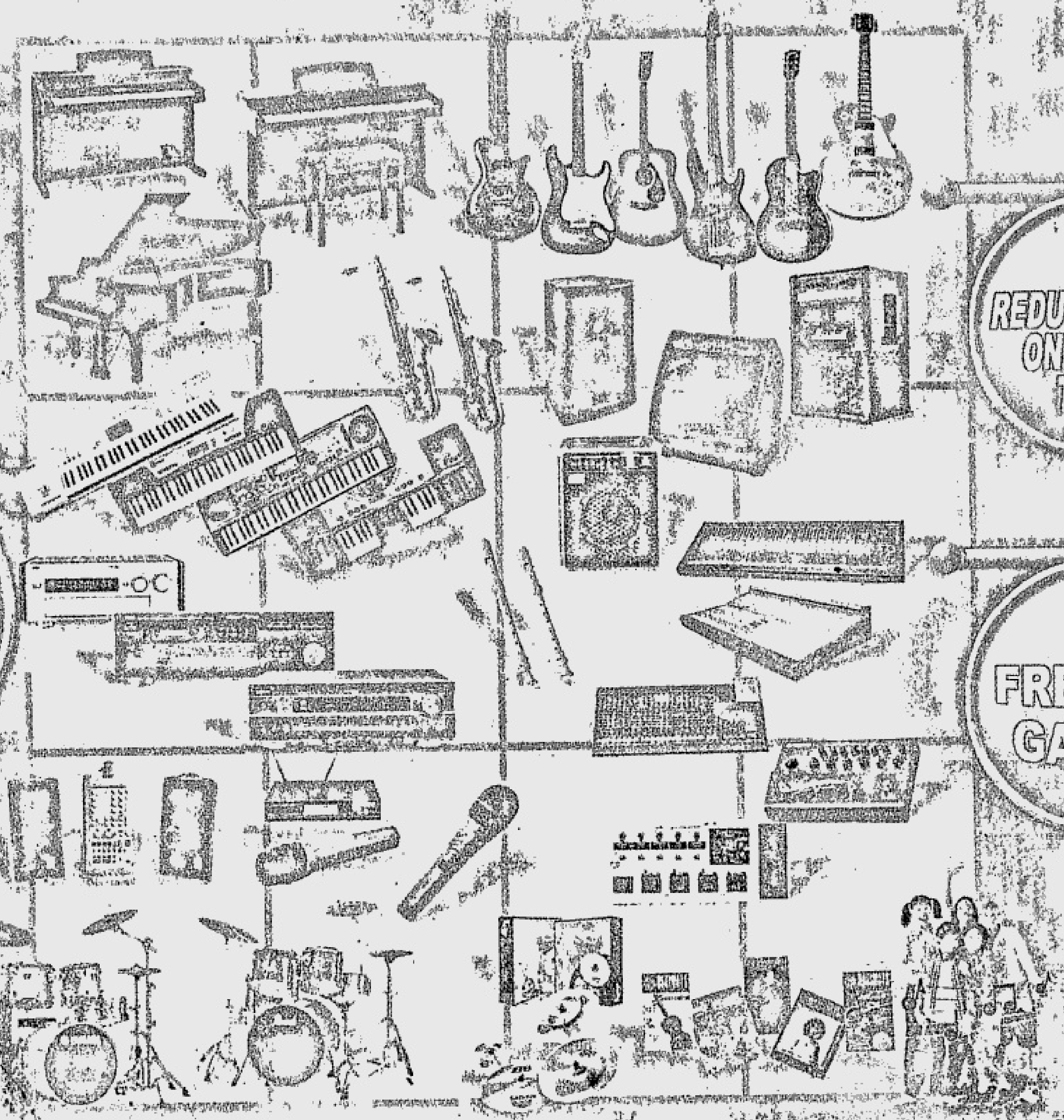

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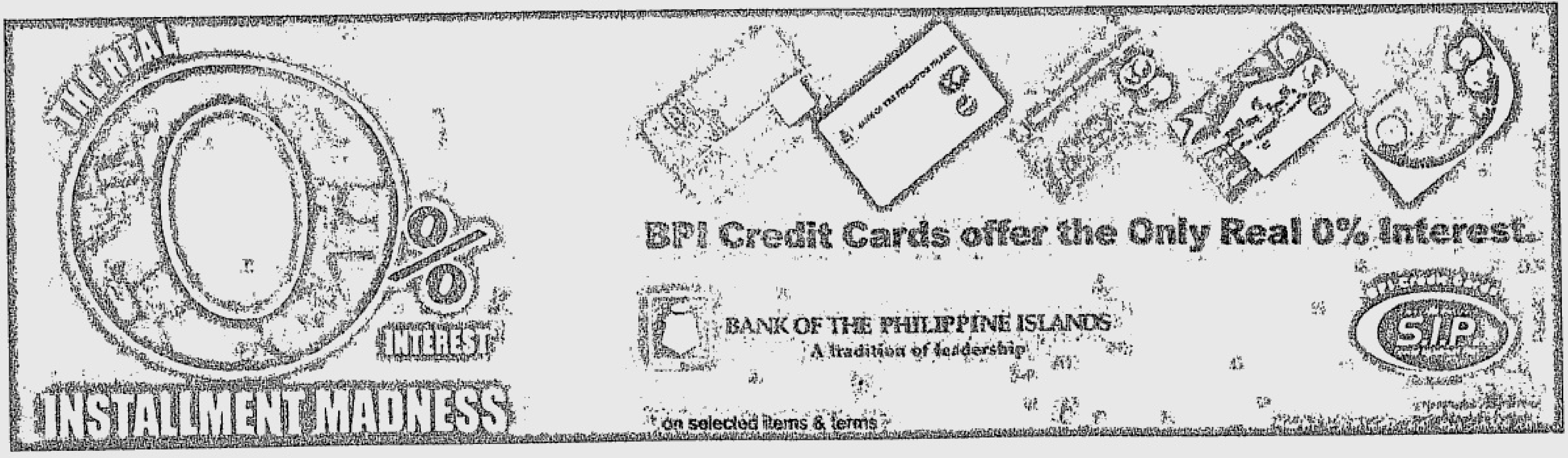
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It's back! BPI Credit Cards' Installment Madness

PHOTOS BY JUN CAPULONG

BPI CREDIT CARDS, the undisputed leader in consumer financing, is once again adding a dash of Christmas this October as it holds its 31st Installment Madness at the Glorietta Activity Center from October 8 - 26, 2003.

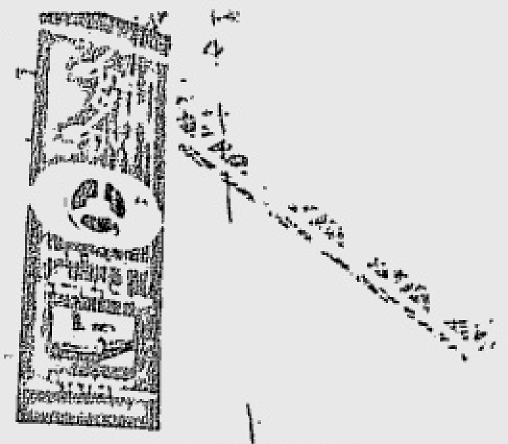
BPI Credit Card continues to capture a strong and potent market due to its escalating popularity. In 1994, BPI Credit Cards launched the first appliance madness at the Glorietta and since then, the landscape of shopping convenience has changed.

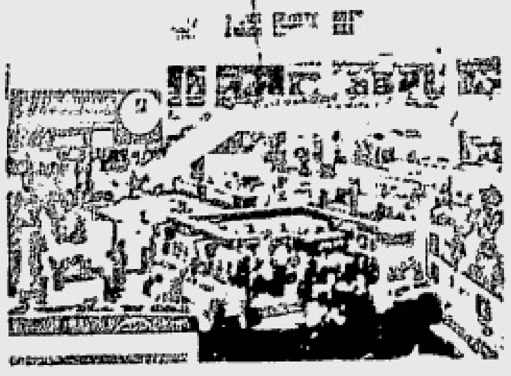
That's because the Installment Madness is the only one of its kind that offers the best deals including among others, the Real Zero Percent (0 percent) Interest promo on high-ticket items by participating merchants.

The participating appliance brands are: Aiwa, Akira, Ariston, American Home, Concepcion-Carrier, Daewoo Electronics, DSPI-Yamaha, Fedders, General Electric, Hyundai-Electronics, JVC, Kolin, La Germania, LG Collins, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Samsung Electronics, Sharp, Sony, Whirlpool, White West-

BPI/ G2

BPI Credit Card continues to capture a strong and potent market due to its escalating popularity





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*Get a chance to win 1 of 3 FORD ESCAPES!**

**For every P3,000 SIP purchase*

So S.I.P. like MAD Now!

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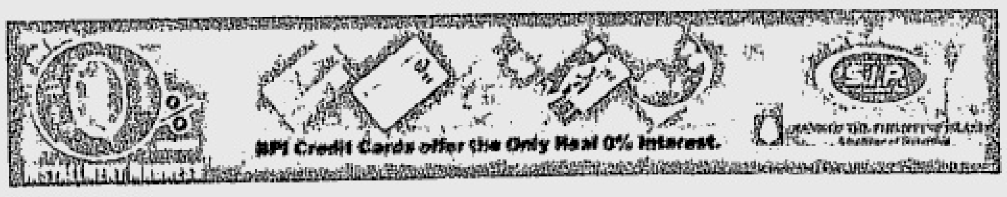
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1703 Series of 2003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It's back! BPI . . .

From page G1

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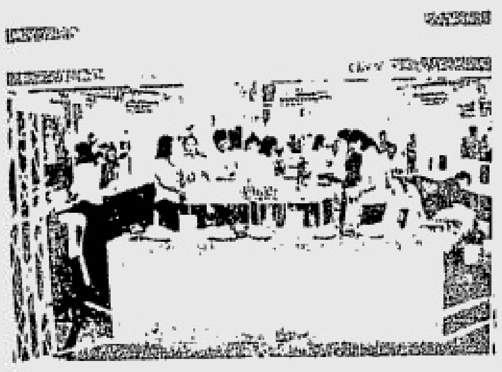

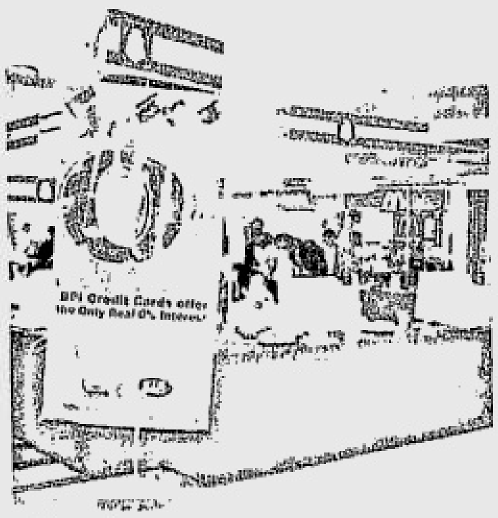

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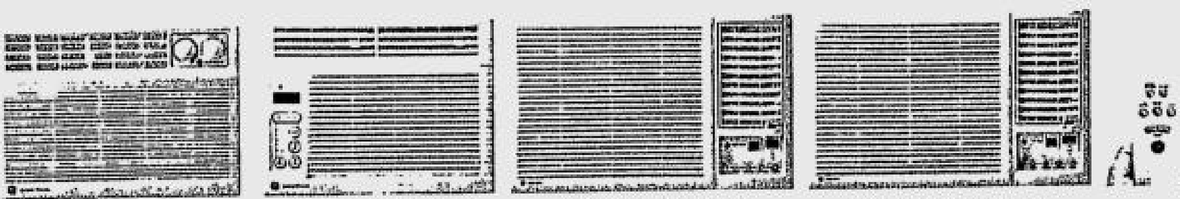

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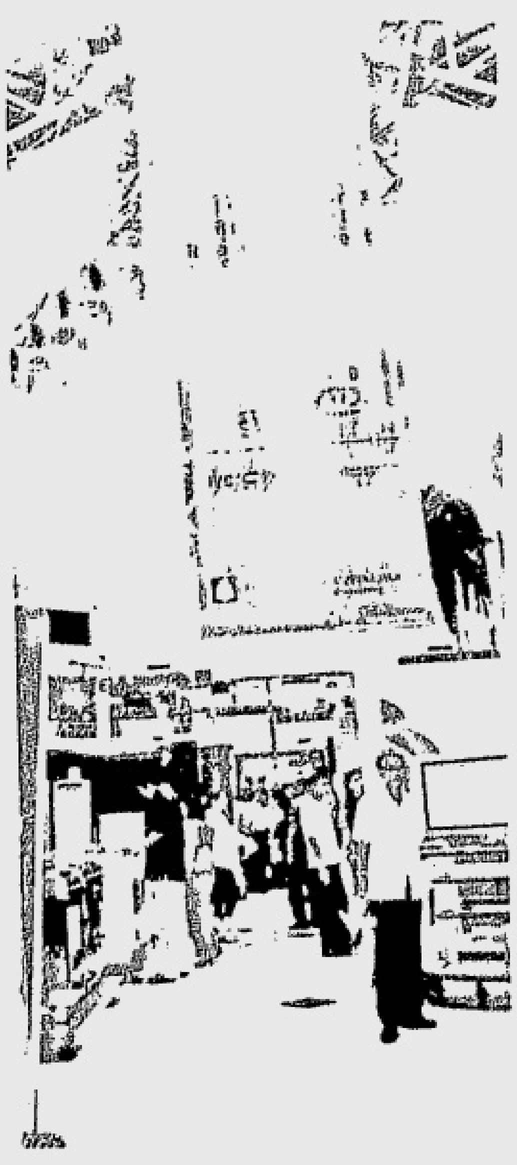

Are you sure your 0% INTEREST installment purchase is FOR REAL?

You have just purchased a new Plasma TV with your credit card on installment. You are thinking *"What a great deal! – I'm paying for this on installment with NO INTEREST!"* because you took advantage of the 0% interest offer from your credit card. You find yourself thanking your credit card for what you believe is a good buy and a neat payment scheme.

Or is it?

Start looking closely... especially if you are a credit cardholder who takes advantage of the deferred payment scheme – that is, paying just the minimum amount due or 5% of the total outstanding balance every month. Chances are, your 0% installment purchase actually gets charged interest.

How does this happen?

Check the billing statement that reflects the first monthly installment of your 0% interest purchase. Is the monthly installment recorded as part of all other regular purchases you made recently, ie. grocery bills, gasoline expense, a new dress? If it is, then the total outstanding balance for the month includes the monthly installment amount in the computation of the minimum amount due – the amount you need to pay to keep your account current.

If you pay the minimum and not the total outstanding balance, the unpaid portion will be charged interest. By the next billing statement, your "supposed" installment purchase on 0% interest has been charged interest! And so it goes on with every entry of your monthly installment until you complete your payment.

How can you truly enjoy the advantage of a 0% installment offer?

When you use **BPI Express Credit Card, BPI Classic and Gold Mastercard and Petron-BPI Mastercard** to purchase items on 0% interest, you are assured of absolutely no interest. This is because of the way your minimum due every month is computed.

A BPI Credit Card has two separate credit lines in one card, where one line is used for regular transactions and the other line for SIP or special installment transactions. With this arrangement, non-installment or regular purchases are treated separately to get the minimum amount due on regular purchases. Afterwards, the monthly installment amount is added to the minimum due – making sure that what you planned to pay will be paid off when you keep your card current and that **you do not incur interest when you should not be charged interest.**

In the end, you enjoy a good and honest deal.

Installment purchasing via credit cards is indeed a helpful payment scheme. 0% interest installment offers make it a great benefit. But don't you wish you can enjoy exactly what was promised?

With BPI Credit Cards, the 0% promise is always delivered.

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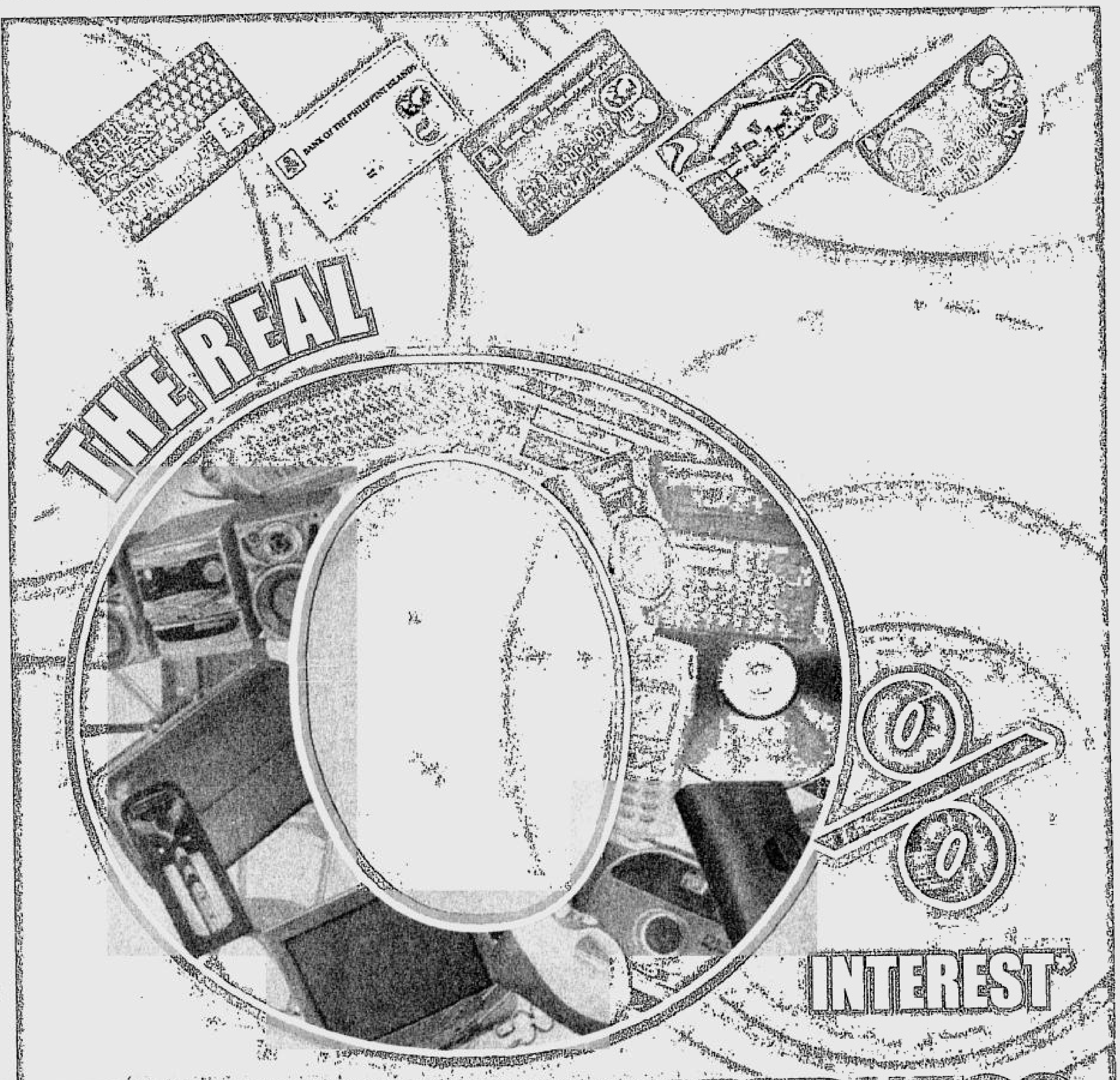
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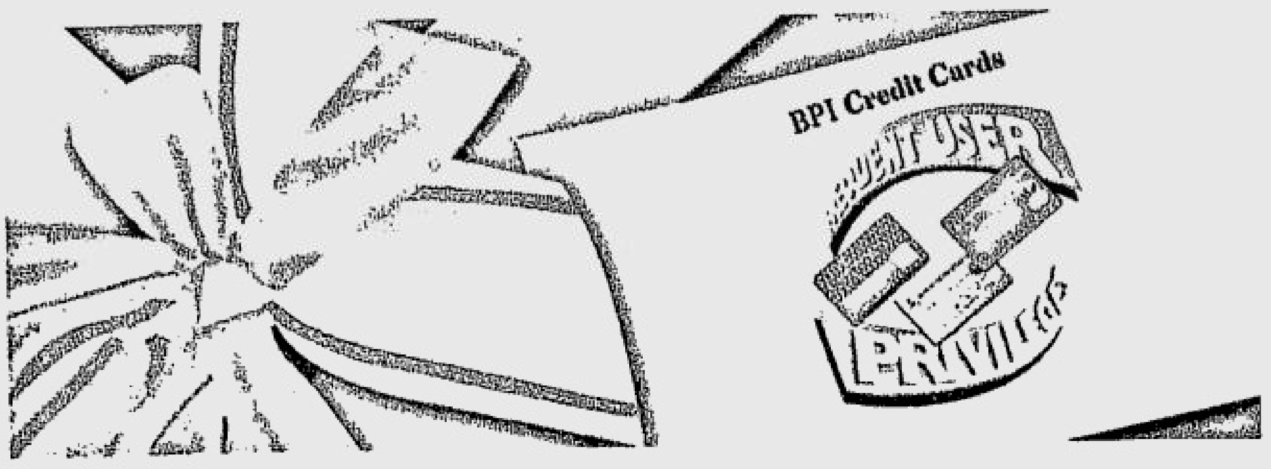

FREQUENT USER PRIVILEGES

Reward programs are all the rage these days

FROM credit cards to airlines, consumers everywhere are being offered incentives for patronizing their favorite brands, services or companies. The logic behind this is simple: Staying loyal to one entity is entirely beneficial to both parties.

Today, most of the major credit card companies boast of these programs. The more purchases you make with your card, the more points you earn. You can later exchange these points for gifts or rewards. What they don't tell you right away, however is the incredibly high purchase requirements to get a gift. With some programs, you need a minimum of P120,000 to P180,000 worth of purchases before you can start redeeming your points for rewards.

BPI's Frequent User Privileges offer you a rewards program that lets you earn free gifts without having to spend extraordinary amounts of money.

Get Your Gifts Quick With BPI Credit Card's Frequent User Privileges

Every purchase worth P25 already earns you 1 point. So a P150 bottle of shampoo gets you 6 points right away. Imagine what an entire grocery bill will earn you. But here's great news—with only P40,000 worth of cumulative spending with a BPI Credit Card, you can already start redeeming your gifts! A really low spending requirement.

A Wide Range of Rewards

BPI Credit Cards' Frequent User program offers a great chance of gifts.. From kitchen appliances and home fixtures to office equipment, health and fitness accessories to toys and educational materials, travel perks to gift certificates to your favorite department stores and restaurants. You'll definitely find something useful and practical to enjoy.

Hassle- free Redemption

The program brings two options to receive redeemed gifts. You can have them delivered to you or you can go to any of the participating merchant outlets located around Metro Manila to claim your gifts directly.

Even BPI Credit Cardholders who are based in provincial areas can redeem rewards easily, right at the assigned stores or outlets where the gifts can be found or thru 89-100 for deliveries.

The Frequent user Privileges 2003 has Been Extended! This year accumulation of Frequent user Privileges points is until October 2003 statement cut-off dates. Redemption is ongoing until January 31, 2004. Avoid the rush, Redeem now!

> BPI's Frequent User Privileges offer you a rewards program that lets you earn free gifts without having to spend extraordinary amounts of money

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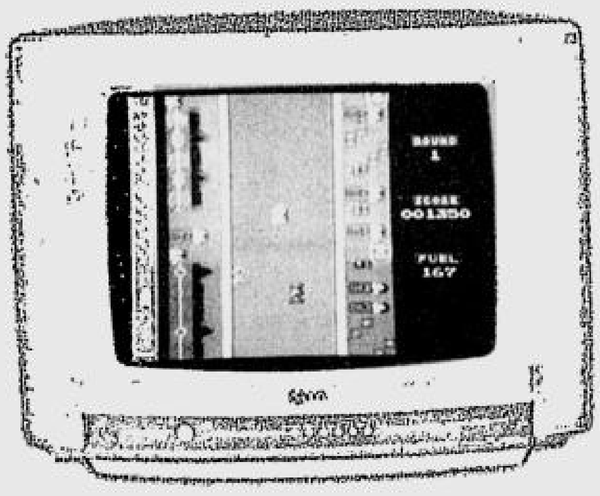
- Y, Pb, Pr
- DVD Component Input

MULTI-SYSTEM

- PAL B/G
- PAL D/K
- NTSC 3.58
- NTSC 4.43

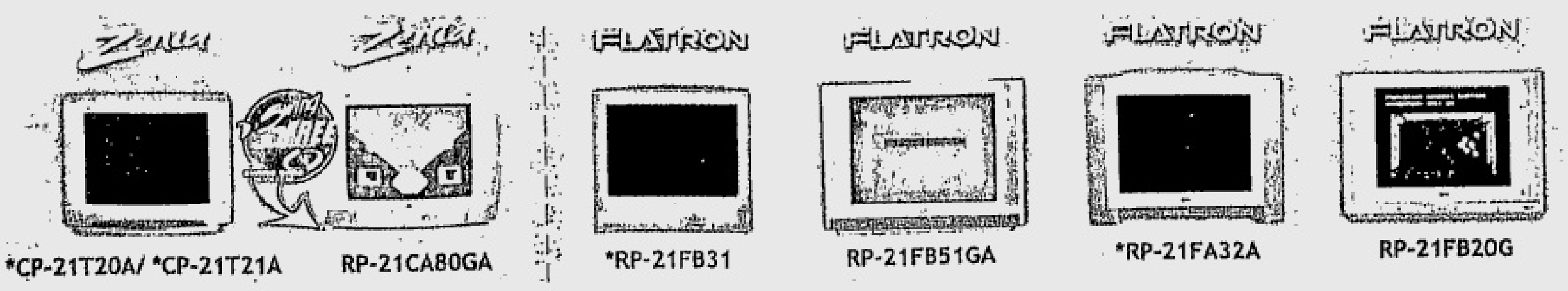
STEREO SURROUND

- 300W P.M.P.O.
- Turbo sound
- Digital Acoustic Surround Processor
- Auto Volume Leveler



Zenia CP-21T31GA

Our other line-up models:



*CP-21T20A/ *CP-21T21A RP-21CA80GA *RP-21FB31 RP-21FB51GA *RP-21FA32A RP-21FB20G

* video games not available in these models

Available at:
•GMA Abenson Inc./ Wallermart/ L-Abenson/ R-Abenson, Automatic Centre/ Sogo Home Appl. Center, SM Appliance Centre, K-Service Trade Inc., Winner Mktg., Fair N' Square, Welcome Homes Appl., Rustan Comm. Corp. •BACOLOD Appliance Centrum, Citi Appliance,Conpinco Trading Corp., J. Marketing Corp, FRM Marketing •CAGAYAN Quality Appliance, Holiday Appliance, Special Appliance, Rainbow Appliance, Central Quality Appliance, Dosmark Corp.•CEBU Gillamac, Citi Appliance, Wilkris, Conpinco, Echo, Reverb, Cecile,Du Ek Sam •DAVAO Emcor, RJ, Fiesta •ILOILO Imperial, Citi Appl.•TACLOBAN Gleen Marketing. RL Appliance •CABANATUAN S & J Marketing, Saver's Mart-Tarlac, Saver's Mart-Tuguegarao, BHF Corp-Tarlac, Estrada Ent., EBC Marketing, GM Flores Marketing •DAGUPAN City Supermarket, Magic Appliance Center, Addessa Corp., BHF Corp, Tiongsan Stores, Ocampo's Inc., Family Trade, Mike's Department Store •SAN FERNANDO Dan's Mktg. Ocampo's Emporium, Ocampo's Guagua, Ocampo's Inc., Ocampo's Olongapo, Saver's Mart •LEGASPI Willy & Sons Corp., Alson's Trading, Bodega Glassware •SAN PABLO Royal Star, Josol Marketing, VPR Marketing

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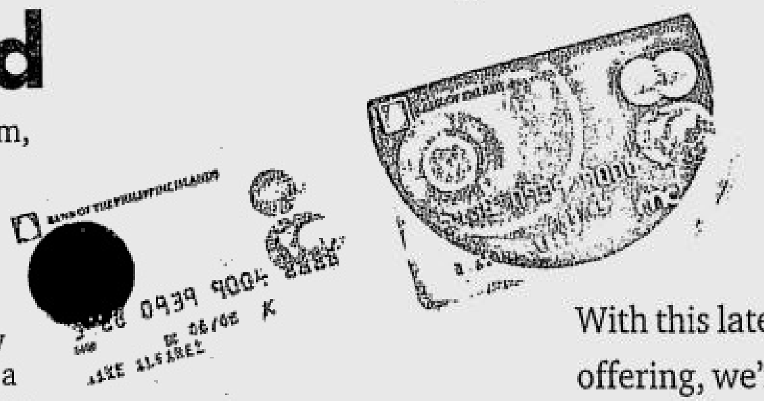
Daringly unconventional attitude now in a hip new credit card



Stand out, break the norm, and don't be square. As natural trendsetters, youthful, active individuals can't help but subscribe to this viewpoint and apply it in the choices that they make. Now they can express this attitude in a credit card that upholds this out-of-the-box credo.

Initiating a new shape of things to come, MasterCard International and Bank of the Philippine Islands launch a uniquely designed credit card called the BPI Edge MasterCard. This new product stands apart from ordinary credit cards with its unusually eye-catching, transluscent plastic design and that distinctive, rounded lower right corner, the first of its kind in the country.

Available in vibrant color variants blue and silver, the new card gives fashionably hip individuals something daringly unconventional to flash whenever they shop, dine, watch movies, or do anything they fancy. Customer profile is expected to be youthful, hardworking professionals who are up-to-date with technology and other trends, and are open to novel experiences.

"With this latest offering, we're catering to a broad, upbeat market segment who prefer to use new and innovative products, have a passion for trying new things in life, and have their own tastes, values and attitudes," explained Aurelio Montinola III, senior executive vice president of BPI.

"We're proud to carry the worldwide cutting-edge design trademark of MasterCard in the BPI Edge card, and it's another indicator of the pioneering spirit that characterizes our company's long history of service to the country," he continued.

According to Jose Rene Villa-Real, vice president and country manager, Philippines, MasterCard International, "MasterCard has achieved huge success with the launch of this uniquely shaped credit card in several markets in Asia/Pacific. This launch is truly a milestone not just for BPI and MasterCard but also for the credit card industry and for our customers. It's a reflection of our commitment to payments innovation for the upwardly mobile market, offering fresh approaches, new ways of doing things, a novel experience altogether."

The Edge of Benefits

The advantages of this new credit card are certainly more than skin deep. BPI has kept in mind the special preferences of the young market to be able to offer benefits relevant to their tastes and lifestyles.

Knowing how most young professionals are

DARINGLY/ G6

With this latest offering, we're catering to a broad, upbeat market segment who prefer to use new and innovative products, have a passion for trying new things in life, and have their own tastes, values and attitudes

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COOLPIX 5700
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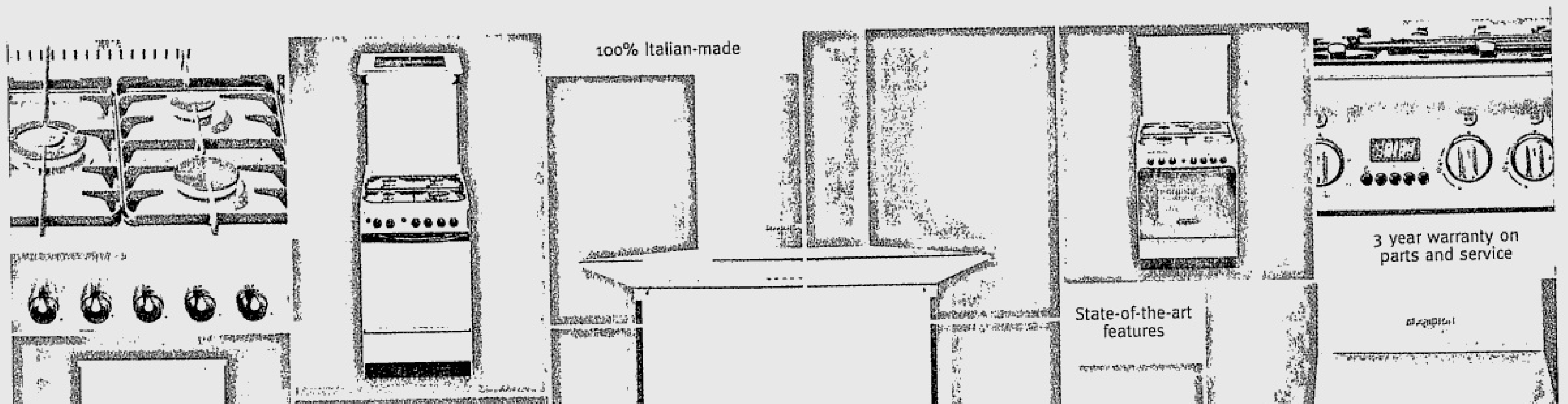

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3 year warranty on parts and service
State-of-the-art features
Distinctive Italian styling
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Italian ready-to-wear for your kitchen.

For only P13,695, you can dress up your kitchen in the year's hottest Italian designs with Ariston's wide range of freestanding cookers and hoods. Italy's premier appliance manufacturer gives you 100% Italian design and a 3-year warranty on sales and service that no other brand can match.

- Freestanding cookers available in 50cm, 60cm, 90cm and 90cm professional series. Choose from an array of state-of-the-art features: SUS 304 stainless steel, electronic ignition on burners & oven, safety device on burners & oven, triple ring burners, cast iron griddle, bi-power & multifunction oven, self-cleaning oven, fish griller and digital timer.
- Rangehood models available in 60cm, 90cm; slim and decorative types; white and stainless.

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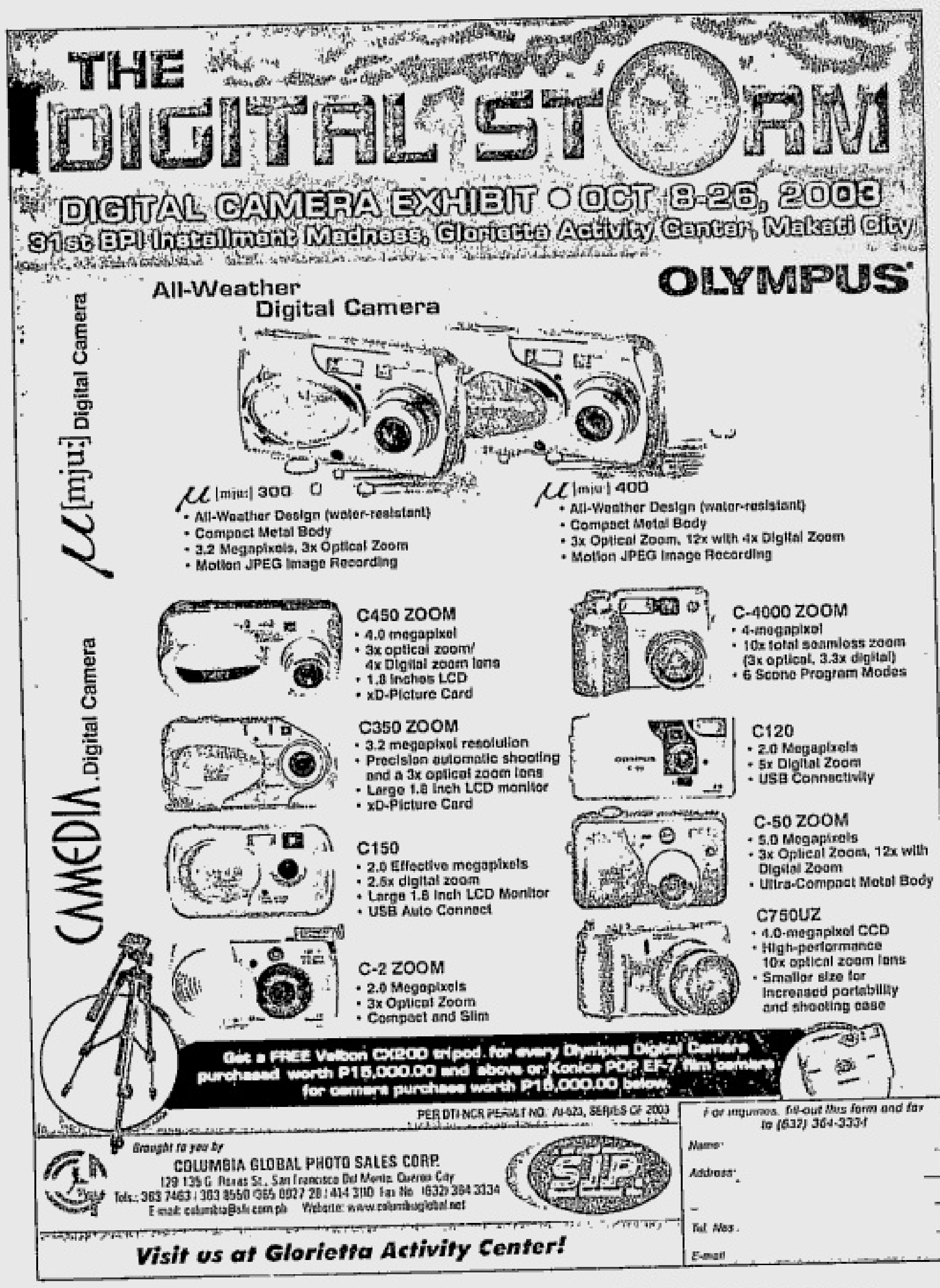
Cardholders can also enjoy the various BPI standard services such as statement/balance copies and inquiries, whether online via BPI Expressbills and BPI Express Online, or via SMS and ATMs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CAMEDIA Digital Camera
C450 ZOOM
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- 2.5x digital zoom
- Large 1.8 inch LCD Monitor
- USB Auto Connect

C-50 ZOOM
- 5.0 Megapixels
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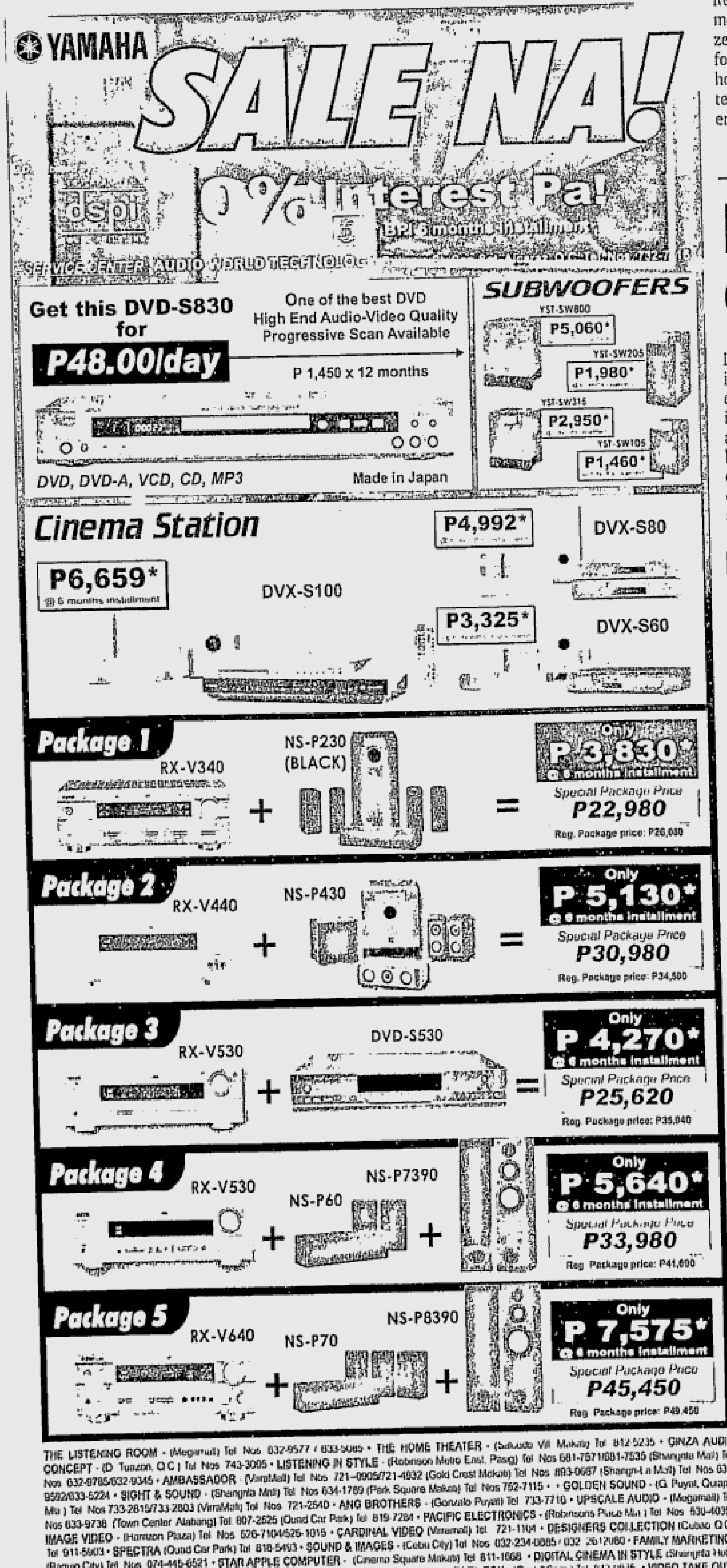
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DVX-S60 P3,325*
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Package 2: RX-V440 + NS-P430 = Only P 5,130* @ 6 months installment. Special Package Price P30,980. Reg. Package price: P34,500
Package 3: RX-V530 + DVD-S530 = Only P 4,270* @ 6 months installment. Special Package Price P25,620. Reg. Package price: P35,040
Package 4: RX-V530 + NS-P60 + NS-P7390 Only P 5,640* @ 6 months installment. Special Package Price P33,980. Reg. Package price: P41,600
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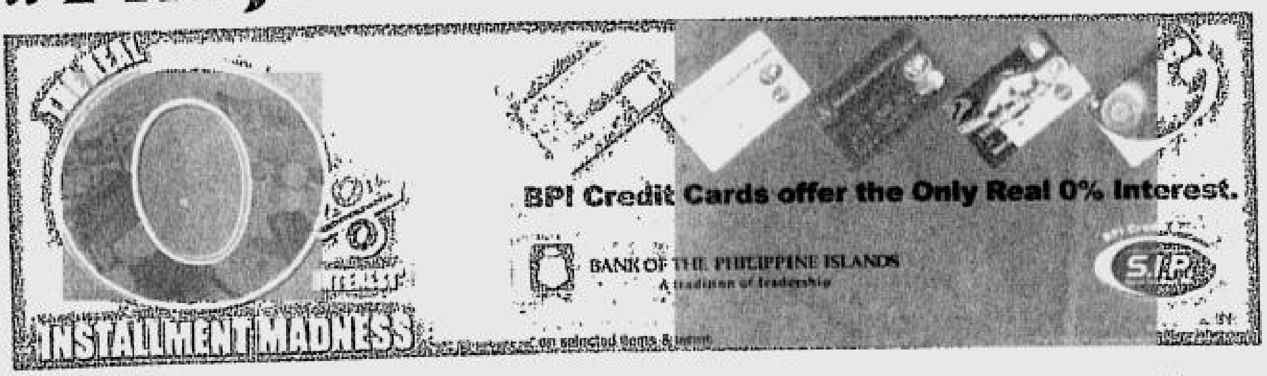
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Daringly unconventional attitude now in a hip . . .

From page G6

still building their careers, BPI has made BPI Edge MasterCard more affordable than generic cards out there. Instead of the usual hefty annual fee, the card comes with an easy-on-the-pocket P100 monthly membership fee.

Finance charge rate is also not as heavy as the others, pegged at a low 3 percent every month regardless of the total amount due. And to entice those who already own a credit card to switch to BPI Edge MasterCard, there's a balance transfer rate of only one percent per month.

The new card empowers aspirant individuals by giving them the capability to shop even in posh establishments like U Rustan's. Definitely one of the trendiest fashion salons in town, U Rustan's gives BPI Edge MasterCard cardholders 15 percent discount on regular items and exclusive sale events.

After shopping, another fave youthful activity is watching movies with friends. That's why BPI has tied up with Ayala Mall cinemas. For every five tickets purchased for the *barkadas*, you get one free ticket simply by flashing your BPI Edge card. This exclusive deal is available at Greenbelt 1 & 2, Glorietta 4, and Alabang Town Center.

The BPI Edge MasterCard lets cardholders purchase select high-ticket items and pay for them in easy monthly installments with as low as zero percent interest. This is perfect for those who wish to fill up their homes with appliances or go for high-tech gadgetry like PDAs, digital cameras or laptops.

The cell phone market, which is predominated by the youth, is also another service segment to which the BPI Edge MasterCard caters. The new card supports the Smart Electronic Load via MasterCard service that lets Smart prepaid subscribers automatically reload their mobile phones wherever and whenever they want. Cardholders with Globe prepaid mobiles, on the other hand, can reload via SMS or at any BPI ATM location nationwide.

Cardholders can also enjoy the various BPI standard services such as statement/balance copies and inquiries, whether online via BPI Expressbills and BPI Express Online, or via SMS and ATMs. On top of these, they get the confidence and security associated with the global MasterCard brand, giving them the capability to use the BPI Edge MasterCard at 32.8 million acceptance locations, and get cash advances at over 900,000 MasterCard, Maestro and Cirrus ATMs worldwide. Many other exciting applications are in the works as the BPI Edge MasterCard continues to shape the future of card payments.

Those who apply for the BPI Edge MasterCard and get approval on or before Sept 30, 2004 will enjoy a waived membership fee for one year. They will also get a special welcome voucher that entitles them to exciting freebies at various merchants such as Dive & Trek Resort, Chef & Brewer, Tequila Joe's, Urban Spa, Gold's Gym, Gameworx, Forum, Corks/Magnum and Aquaventure.

About Bank of the Philippine Islands

Bank of the Philippine Islands, with 152 years of banking leadership and innovation, boasts of having the largest combined network of over 700 branches and over 1,200 automated teller machines servicing over 3 million depositors and debit/credit cardholders. For years, international publications and rating agencies have given annual awards to BPI as one of the best banks in the region. Among those are the Far Eastern Economic Review, The Banker, EuroMoney, AsiaMoney, Business Week, The Asset, Global Finance, Finance Asia and the Asian Banker. For more info, go to www.bpiexpressonline.com.

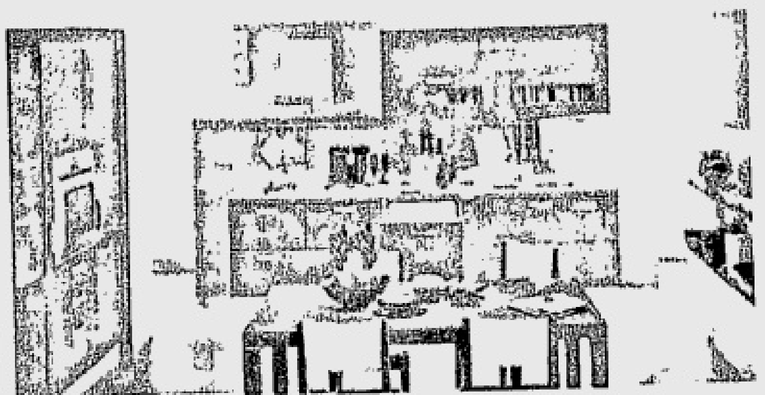
About MasterCard International

MasterCard International is a leading global payments solutions company that provides a broad variety of innovative services in support of our global members' credit, deposit access, electronic cash, business-to-business and related payment programs. MasterCard International manages a family of well-known, widely accepted payment cards brands including MasterCard, Maestro and Cirrus and serves financial institutions, consumers and businesses in over 210 countries and territories. The MasterCard award-winning Priceless advertising campaign is now seen in 98 countries and in 46 languages, giving the MasterCard brand a truly global reach and scope. For more information go to www.mastercardinternational.com.

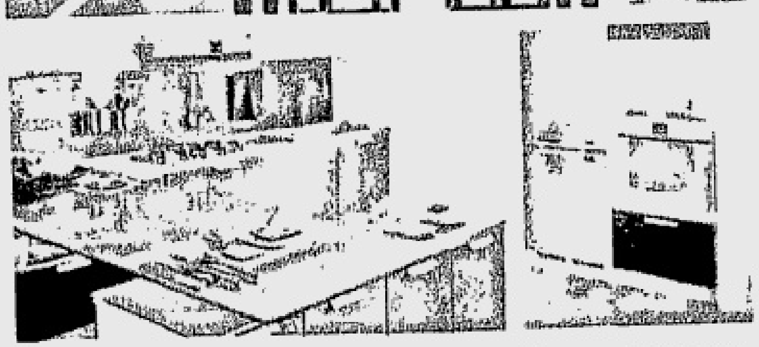
Preview: The 2004 Collection from Italy

LEADING Italian manufacturer Ariston recently unveiled its 2004 collection of modern kitchen appliances, expectedly drawing enthusiastic reaction from Italian interior designers, distributors and affluent homeowners alike. Best characterized by classic lines harmoniously blending with modern design that create a fresh contrast with linear cabinetry, Ariston's latest creations espouses its taste for innovation with the application of the most recent advances in cooking appliance technology: safety induction touch-control ceramic hobs, multi-function cook tops with new double crown dual regulation burners, rotating elliptical double-face fish burners, the anti-scratch, easy-to-clean stainless steel, to name a few.

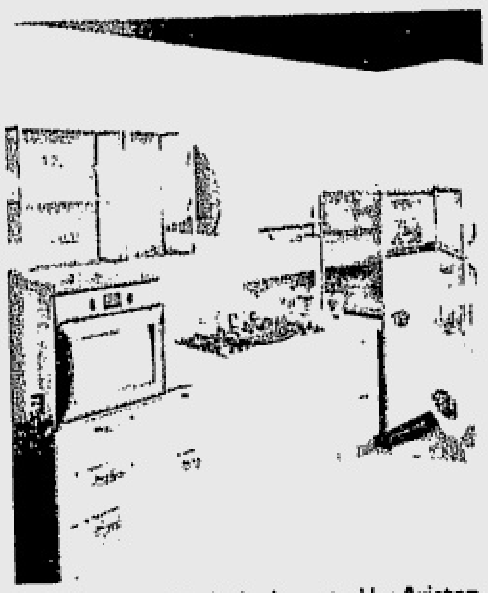
Philippine distributor Fabriano Spa Inc expects to capture a greater share of the higher end market with the introduction of the latest models from Italy. For information, call 631-8282.



A HARMONIOUS blend of classic lines and modern design, all details, like handles and knobs smartly combine together, expressing great solidity and practicality.



THE ELEGANT high-tech motif of this line doesn't leave out details like the functional display, the knobs, push-buttons, and the unique tech-type cast-iron pan support which is another Ariston innovation.



THE 'ROUNDED design' created by Ariston, comes back in a modern key in this kitchen.

High quality, innovative spirit not limited by sound

YAMAHA'S involvement with sound began with the production of its first reed organ in 1887. Shortly thereafter, it began making pianos and other instruments, and today Yamaha is the world's largest producer of musical instruments. It also operates a worldwide music school, design concert halls and produces innovative electronic instruments. Its audio component have long been recognized as the standard bearers of fine quality, and with the development of Digital Sound Field Processing in 1986, it opened a new era in home entertainment. All of its acoustic and audio expertise is now engineered into LSIs that it designs and manufactures, and these powerful chips are expanding and enhancing entertainment possibilities in the exciting new field of home theater. Recently, Yamaha also introduced state-of-the art video components, and now offers everything necessary for the finest in music and movie enjoyment at home.

Yamaha is one of the most popular and innovative manufacturers of home audio components, and has been in the market for more than three decades. In recent years, Yamaha Digital Home Theater helped create the new category of home theater entertainment, and now offers a wide range of products for every budget and preference. Its top-of-the-line components are one of the most sophisticated in the world. Much of the same technologies go into one of its compact and affordable systems. What's more, Yamaha digital home theater's commitment to high quality home theater is not limited to sound. Yamaha has introduced high performance plasma and video projectors designed to maximize the image quality of movies for the finest music and movie enjoyment at home.

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BPI Credit Cards Travel Madness 2003 lets you experience rich Filipino cultural heritage and discover the many wonders that the Philippines has to offer. See for yourself, travel throughout the archipelago and be amazed by the sights and unravel its history.

Starting off with Luzon's pride, the eighth wonder of the world, The Banaue Rice Terraces which was carefully hand-carved by our Ifugao brothers thousands of years ago.

Go nature-tripping in Palawan and explore underwater sanctuaries and other rare flora and fauna and lush virgin forests.

Hop and Dive to Bohol in the Visayas. A perfect destination for whale-watching and deep-sea diving and is also the home of the famous Chocolate Hills.

Who would ever forget the powdery white sand and the crystal blue waters of Boracay. Having earned the reputation of the world's best beach, Boracay has remained one of the frequently visited destinations here in our country.

Down south, where there is a distinct mixture of cultural influences, enjoy Zamboanga—the City of Flowers and exotic shades of colorful vintas.

These are just some of the many destinations that our country has to offer, just waiting for you to discover. So take your pick, pack your bags and go on that dream vacation, courtesy of your BPI Credit Cards! Charge to SIP and enjoy reduced interest rates. See the Travel Madness 2003 Catalogue for more details. Promo period is from Feb. 21 to Dec. 15, 2003

Charge to SIP and enjoy reduced interest rates. See the Travel Madness 2003 Catalogue for more details. Promo period is from Feb. 21 to Dec. 15

Casio EMI to give away exciting rewards with PASASALAMAT 2003 Raffle Promo

YOUR favorite electronic musical instruments now come in a more exciting, more rewarding package!

Casio EMI, the country's leader in the fields of electronic musical instruments, celebrates the month of October with the annual tradition of giving away surprises and rewards to its customers and patrons while continuing its pursuit for the cultivation of musical interest and excellence among Filipino families. With the Pasasalamat 2003 raffle promo, families who avail themselves of any of Casio's wide array and top-of-the-line keyboards get the chance to choose their rewards from an exciting line-up of showcases sure to bring family members closer together.

These great line-up of showcases includes an Entertainment Showcase with a 21" Samsung Tantuz TV, Samsung DVD player and a Sony CD cassette; a Computer Showcase with an Intel Celeron 1.7Ghz computer set and an HP Deskjet 3550 printer; and a Holiday Showcase to Club Panoly Resort in Boracay for a 3-day and 2-night accommodation. The Pasasalamat 2003 chooses one winner each for the showcases and is open to all families or customers who will purchase any Casio keyboard at participating Casio EMI outlets nationwide from Oct. 1 to 31.

Two sets of winners will also be drawn for the Major prizes which include Casio Exilim Digital cameras, Casio G-Shock watches, and P5, 000 worth of gift certificates from Power Telecomshop. The consolation prizes include 5 winners each of Sari-Sari Store and Casio Music Circle gift certificates.

Truly, Casio EMI does not only provide topnotch and user-friendly instruments that make music closer to Filipino families. The brand complements its efforts of making music with gifts of surprises and rewards for its loyal customers and patrons through the years. With this year's Pasasalamat 2003, Casio EMI gives families the chance to get the rewards they have always wanted!

For details and inquiries about the Pasasalamat 2003, see print ads and posters or visit the nearest Casio EMI outlets located in key cities and provinces nationwide, or call the Casio EMI Showroom at (02) 806- 6521. The Pasasalamat 2003 is supported by Casio watches, Power Telecomshop, Sari-Sari Store, and Club Panoly Resorts Inc.

Business Week, Interbrand's annual ranking of the world's most valuable brands places GE among top 5 global brands

BUSINESS Week and Interbrand Corp announced the names of this year's top 100 brands worldwide. General Electric (GE) made it to the prestigious top 10 brands, placing fourth in overall ranking, with Coca-Cola, Microsoft, and IBM taking the 1st, 2nd and 3rd posts respectively.

Business Week and Interbrand's annual ranking of the world's most valuable brands is based on a detailed analysis of how much of each product's sales are driven by brand name, weighed for such other factors as market leadership, stability and the ability to cross national borders.

While other brands fell in value compared to a year ago, GE has defended and maintained its position and market value. GE was also No. 4 in last year's ranking. It remains the only appliance company to have made it to the Top 10 Global Brands. Other brands that made it to the top ten include Intel (5th), Nokia (6th), Disney (7th), McDonald's (8th), Marlboro (9th) and Mercedes (10th).

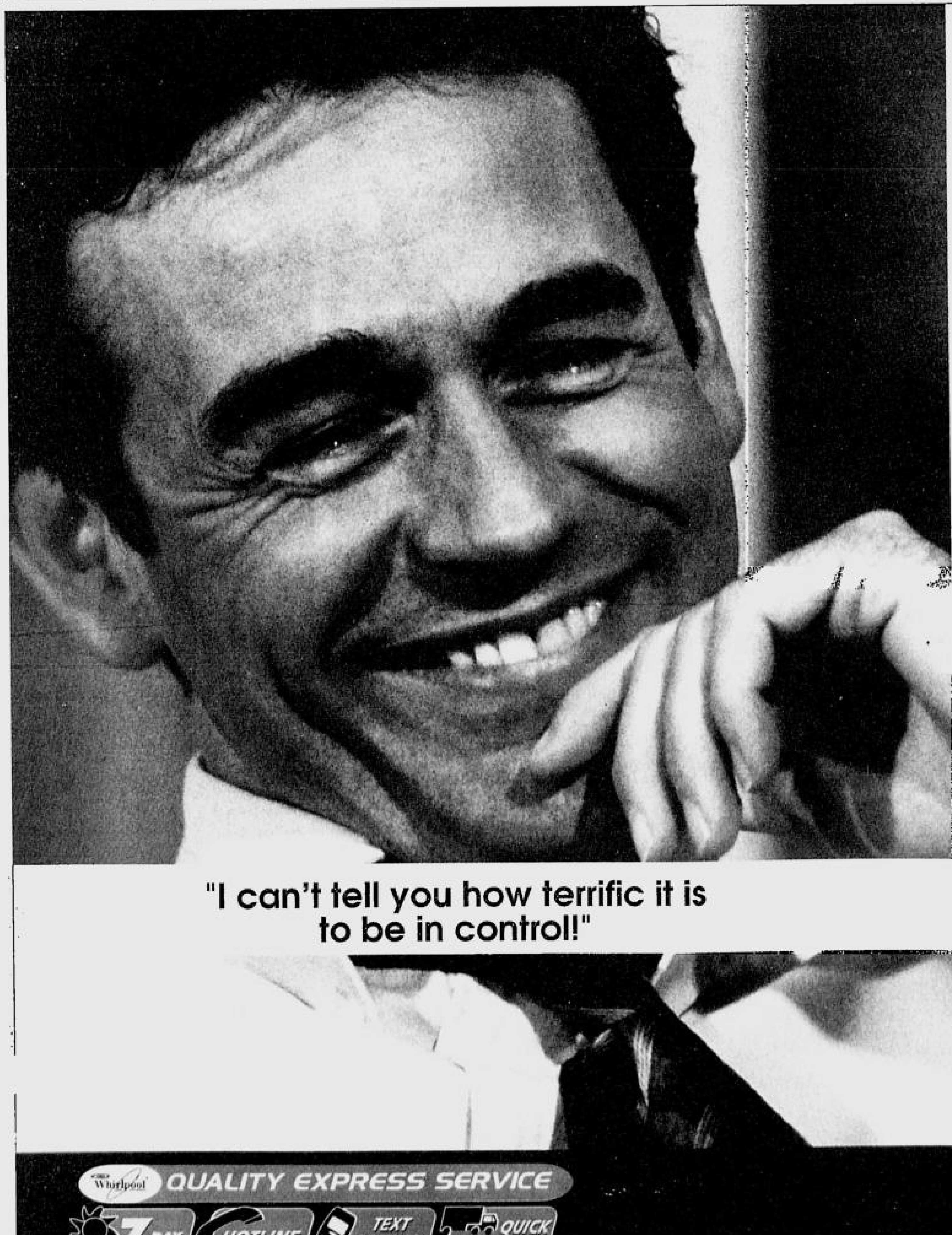
Despite global political crisis and current issues about quality, mistargeted products, and other fundamental business problems that result to mediocre stock market worldwide, GE's value seemed to have not been affected and still, it has managed to stay among those on top of the list.

What is it exactly that's keeping GE aloft? It's the name that has been trusted since famous scientist Thomas Alva Edison founded the company over a century ago. GE has been known all over the world as one of the most valuable brands of home appliances. In fact, it has consistently been acclaimed as America's most preferred appliance brand by the reputable Louis Harris annual poll. In Asia, GE is constantly a recipient of the Reader's Digest Superbrand award, a recognition given to consumers' brand of choice.

At the same time, GE has continued to develop innovative products to satisfy consumers' changing needs and lifestyles. A substantial amount of its annual budget is allocated for research, product development and brand management. This is to make sure that GE remains the leading brand of choice.

Another important factor in the success of GE worldwide is the customizing of products that are marketed in different countries. Products distributed in a particular country depend on the culture and lifestyle of the people and the local market environment. GE has learned to take into consideration the needs, lifestyles and financial capabilities of the local market to which the products are targeted.

In the Philippines, GE appliances are exclusively distributed by CYA Industries Inc. For product inquiries, call 631-8282 or 633-9953.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Whirlpool Symphony gives you the power to be in control.
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INDUSTRY leaders Petron Corp and Bank of the Philippine Islands partnered last year for a new product, the Petron-BPI MasterCard, an innovative credit card that offers a wide range of services and added benefits to motorists.

Cardholders of the Petron-BPI MasterCard get regular two percent (2 percent) rebates on purchases of Petron fuels from participating stations and discounts on lubricants. On top of these, the credit card entitles you to a 24-hour price shield from price increases. The card will enable you to purchase as much as 40 liters of any Petron fuel at the old retail price within 24 hours of a price increase announcement.

> Aside from the rebate and price-shield, Cardholders may also avail themselves of discounts from Petron CarCare Centers. Members get substantial discounts on automotive services at participating Petron Service Stations

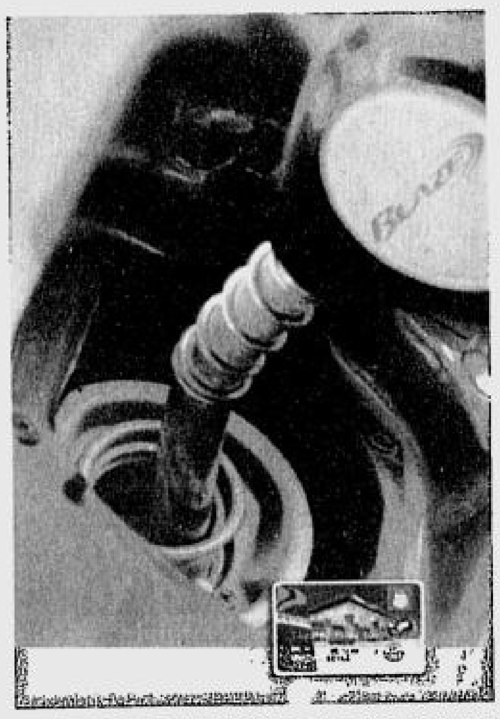
Aside from the rebate and price-shield, Cardholders may also avail themselves of discounts from Petron CarCare Centers. Members get substantial discounts on automotive services at participating Petron Service Stations.

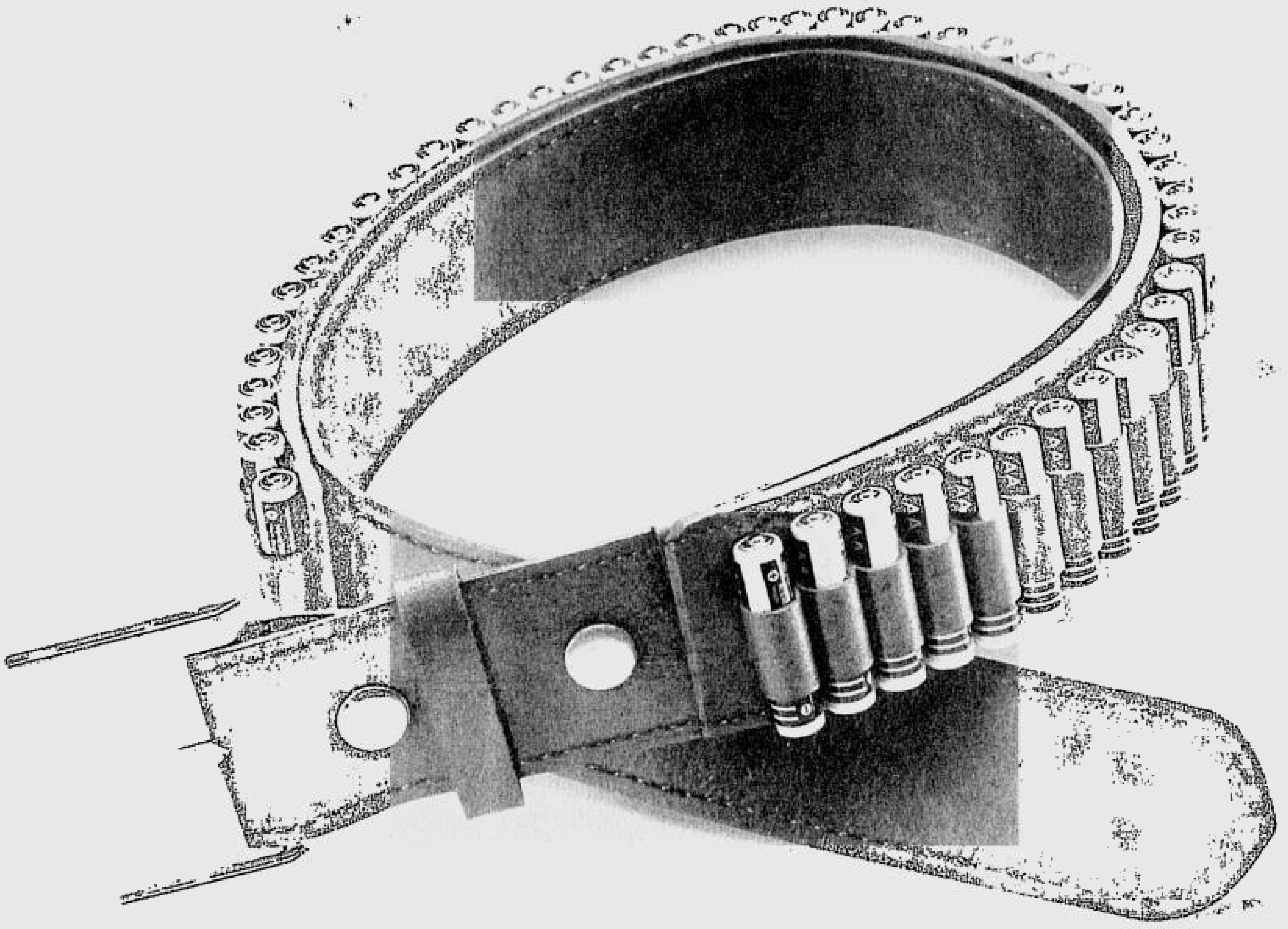
Moreover, Petron-BPI MasterCard provides the added advantage of a 24-hour towing service and roadside assistance nationwide and special rates on motor vehicle insurance through Mapfre Asian Insurance. All these benefits are to ensure road safety and convenience to motorists.

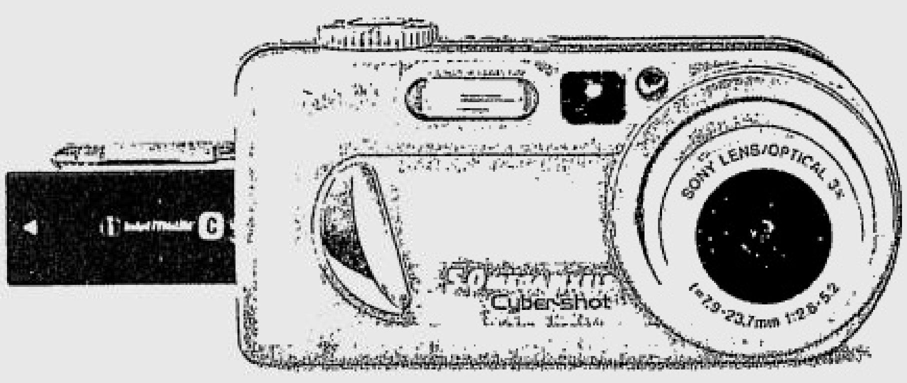
Cardholders can also use the Petron-BPI MasterCard for other purchases. Two credit lines are offered with the use of a single Petron-BPI MasterCard. Cardholders can avail themselves of one credit line for regular purchases and another for installment buying. The Special Installment Plan (SIP) allows Cardholders to purchase without downpayment high-priced items at low interest rates. SIP purchased items are payable in as much as 24 months.

The Petron-BPI MasterCard is also accepted for dining, shopping and travel in over 29 million establishments worldwide. It comes with a cash advance benefit which gives a Cardholder emergency cash by as much as 30 percent of his or her regular credit limit.

So come and apply now for your Petron-BPI MasterCard. Simply log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com, visit any BPI or BPI Family Savings Bank branch or participating Petron Service Station or go to any BPI Express Banking Center.







SONY
Cyber-shot

Introducing the new Sony CyberShot DSC-P10 digital camera with InfoLithium Battery.
No alkaline-loaded camera can match the DSC-P10's over 180 minutes shooting power. Go all out and take all the pictures you want. Go on, fire away.

SONY

DSC-P32
- 3.2 Mega Pixel
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX with Audio
- Ni-MH Rechargeable AA Batteries (Supplied) (Approx. 320 mins or 160 shots)

Old price P18,999
New price: P14,999

DSC-P72
- 3.2 Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX with Audio
- Ni-MH Rechargeable AA Batteries (Supplied) (Approx. 300 mins or 150 shots)

Old price P24,999
New price: P20,999

DSC-P92
- 5.0 Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX
- Ni-MH Rechargeable AA Batteries (Supplied) (Approx. 270 mins or 135 shots)

Old price P32,999
New price: P27,999

DSC-P8
- 3.2 Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX
- Histogram Indicator
- InfoLithium Battery (Supplied) – No Memory Effect (Approx. 200 mins or 100 shots)

Old price P31,999
New price: P24,999

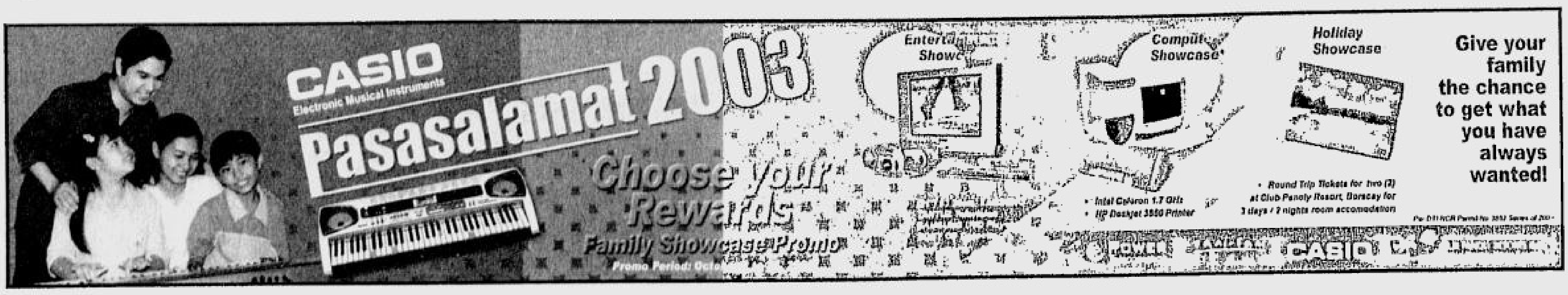
DSC-P10
- 5.0 Mega Pixel
- 3x Optical Zoom
- Smart Zoom
- MPEG Movie VX
- Histogram Indicator
- InfoLithium Battery (Supplied) – No Memory Effect (Approx. 180 mins or 90 shots)

Old price P38,999
New price: P 31,999

METRO-MANILA Abenson, Inc. (Quad, SM North Edsa, Shangri-la, Greenhills) Anson's Emporium (Pasay Road) AV Surfer (Rockwell, Galleria, Alabang Town Center, Metro East) Avid Sony Shop (SM Megamall B, Quad, Greenbelt 3, U.N. Avenue, Filinvest) Complink (Shangri-la, Megamall, Parksquare) Electroworld (Megamall, Parksquare, SM North Edsa, Alabang Town Center, Greenbelt) Microstation (Shangri-la) NT Computers (SM North Edsa) Silicon Valley (SM North Edsa, Megamall, Alabang Town Center, Parksquare) TCA (Megamall, Parksquare, Filinvest) Witman (Ayala, Megamall, SM North Edsa) Western Marketing (SM Megamall A, Filinvest, Sta. Lucia) LUZON AV Surfer (Pampanga City) VISAYAS Cebu: AV Surfer (Ayala Center) Avid Sony Shop (SM City Cebu) Colours Fotoshop (Cebu City), Metro-Gaisano (Cebu City) Star Appliance (Cebu City) MINDANAO. Davao: Golden Bell Grand Center, Metro-Plaza, SM Appliance. Zamboanga: Golden Bell

Cyber-shot

For inquiries, call the Customer Information Center (CIC) at tel. no. 878-7000 or e-mail cic@sony.com.ph • Visit www.sony.com.ph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- Round Trip Tickets for two (2) at Club Panoly Resort, Boracay for 3 days / 2 nights room accomodation

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